Secret History,

OF THE

Four Laſt Monarchs

OF

GREAT-BRITAIN:

VIZ.

James I. } { Charles II.
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To which is added,

An *Appendix*, Containing the Later Reign of *James* the Second, from the Time of his Abdication of *England*, to this preſent *Novemb.* 1693.

Being an Account of his Tranſactions in *Ireland*, and *France*: With a more particular Reſpect to the Inhabitants of *Great-Britain*.

London, Printed in the Year 1693.

Secret History

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Four Last Monarchs

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James } { Charles
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To which is added,

THE PREFACE.

THough it hath pleased God to reserve the Art of reading Men's Thoughts to Himself; yet as the Fruit tells the Name of the Tree, so do the outward Works of Men, so far as their Cogitations are acted, give us, whereof to guess at the rest: No Man can long continue Masqued in a counterfeit Behaviour; The things that are forced for pretences, having no Ground to Truth, cannot long dissemble their own Nature.

And tho' we ought not rashly to rake into the Ashes of the Dead (much less of Deceased Princes,) and Express either their Personal Miscarriages or their Failures in Management of the Government; yet, no doubt, but the making them Publick, may sometimes contribute not a little to the General Good.

It is one of the Encomiums, given to

Suetonius, *That he made Publick to the World, the Vices and Miscarriages of the Twelve* Cæsars, *with the same freedom with which they were by them Committed.*

And there is no question, but one of his chiefest Reasons for so doing, was this, Because he would not deceive Posterity; and all agree, that he was Contemporary with the Three last. So that the Enormities of Domitian *could not but be fresh in his Memory, when he wrote his Life; and there might be several Persons living, as might have the same particular Affection for* Domitian, *as there are now Adorers of our late Monarchs: For which reason, there is a wary Caution among some People,* That Truth is not always to be spoken. *Which perhaps may be sometimes true; but, as the Case stands with these Sheets, not at all to be taken notice of: The pains of this short History, being as well to Vindicate, as to Inform, and Written in Opposition to one of the* French *King's most Scandalous Libels, and bitter Invectives against our present Soveraign; Entituled,* The True Portraicture of William Henry of Nassaw, *&c. Now, to have made a particular Answer to all the Extravagancies and Impertinent Flams of a Malicious Libeller would*

would have been a Fending and Proving altogether Fruitless. It was therefore thought the more concise way, to bring our Late Monarchs Reign upon the Stage; and then let all the World judge of the Furberies and Tyranny of those Times, and the Integrity, Sincerity, and Sweetness of Their present Majesties Reign; since by comparing them, the most wilfully Blind may be convinced, how infinitely happy we are under Their present Majesties Government, beyond what we were in the late Reign; which were but a very considerable matter (if any thing) below the French Tyranny, and considering the unparallel'd Virtue, that are so Resplendent in our Gracious Soveraigns, we may, with all the reason in the World, assure our selves of a lasting Peace; and as much Happiness under Them Now, as we had Troubles and Confusions under the Former For Their Religion, Integrity and Moderation (which must always be in conjunction, with Princes that are truly Patries Patriæ) are as Notorious to the World (so that Their greatest Enemies cannot deny them) as were the Atheism, and furious Bigottism of the former Reigns; Vices much of the same pernicious Consequences to a Kingdom, if the

latter be not the more dangerous, since the greatest Villanies that ever were perpetrated in the World, have been Masqued with seeming Zeal for Religion.

But since there are not a few, who, tho' they seem to decry the Tyrannies of the Two late Kings, yet approve of much the same Actions of Two that Preceded them, (*One of whom, some Men have Vainly, if not Blasphemously, compared to the* King of King;) *not considering that they laid the Foundations of that Tyranny, which the others brought to so great a Perfection. As to the former of them,* viz. K. James *the I. it will easily appear from this following History, what great steps he made towards Tyranny: It is certain, that the reason He gave for setting up Episcopacy in* Scotland, *was, That He might have so many Friends to rely upon in* Parliament, i. e. *That by them, as the Dead Weight, He might the better carry on His Designs there. And herein his Politicks did not deceive Him; for by their means He and his Successors found it no hard matter to reduce that Kingdom to as great Slavery, as any in* Europe *hath groaned under of late Years. How great a Proficient he was in the Art of Dissimulation, or King-Craft, I*

shall

shall only insert one Instance of it here, which I omitted in the History; especially, because I think it may not be ungrateful to the Reader, viz. *That after his Return from* Denmark *to* Scotland, *seeming mightily satisfied with the Care the Kirk-Party had taken to preserve the Kingdom in Peace, during his Absence; He was pleas'd to express himself thus, in a general Assembly,* That He blest God, that He was Born at like a Time of the Gospel, and to be King of like a Kirk, the purest Kirk in the World: The Kirk of *Geneva*, (*says He,*) keeps *Yuel* and *Pasche*: What have they from the word of God for That? And for our Neighbour Kirk of *England*, What is their Service, but an ill-said Mass in *English*? *And concluded with the Solemnest Promises, to Maintain and Preserve the Kirk; when (in the mean while) He was taking all underhand Methods to supplant it, as He did a few Years after.*

And as to His Successor, *tho' a Kalender'd S. Yet after all the lying Insinuations of self-designing, and —— ridden Persons of that* Prince's *singular Religion, that very Act of Instituting* Plays *and* Sports *on the* Lord's Day, *is no extraordinary Proof of it.*

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The Learned Sir Walter Rawleigh, *in the Close of the Preface to his most admirable History, adviseth the* Reader *to take heed, how he follows Truth too close at the heels, lest it strike out his Teeth: I hope these Relations begins with a distance of Time, not so far off, that the Foot-Steps of Truth are worn out, nor yet so near, as the Foot-Steps of it need to be feared.*

And so irresistable is the Force of Truth, and the Divine Providence so great, that however all possible Diligence may have been used to carry things in Secret, *and to Act by colourable Pretences (Men often acting like Tumblers that are Squint Eyed, looking one way, and Aiming another) yet in these our days, God hath brought great things to Light discovering many* secret *and close Contrivances, many Private Consultations, and hidden Designs, which otherwise probably neither We nor our Posterity should have ever known. I conclude this my Preface, without the Remarks of a Learned* Spaniard *on History in general.*

Satis est Historiæ, si sit vera; quæ ut reliqua habet omnia.

Siveritatem non habet obtinere nomen non Potest.

THE

THE SECRET HISTORY OF King JAMES I.

TIme, which puts a period to all things under the Sun, began now to sheath the Sword of War, that had been long disputing the Controversie, which Religion and Policy (that Princes mix together) had for many Years so fiercely maintained: The wearing out of that old, but glorious, and most happy *Piece* of *Soveraignty*, Queen *Elizabeth*, bating the *Spanish* Violence, and ending with the *Irish* Rebellion, and Submission of the great Earl of *Tyrone*; as if the old *Genius* of Iron-handed War, and a new one Crowned, with a Palm of Peace, had taken Possession of the *English* Nation; *James* the Sixth, King of *Scotland*, was Proclaimed King of *England*. For though Princes that find here a Mortal Felicity, love not the noise of a Successor, in their Life time, yet they are willing (for the Peace of their People) to have one, when they can hear no more of it. That which this Blessed

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Queen could not endure from others, She was pleased to express her self, and bequeath in her last Will, as a Legacy to this, then happy Nation. He was Thirty Years of Age when he came to the Crown. How dangerous the passage had been from his very Infancy to his middle Age, is not only written in many Histories, but the untamed and untractable Spirits of many of that Nation, are a sufficient Witness and Record.

The wise Queen found many petty Titles, but none of that Power, any other Hand that should have reacht for the Crown, might have caught a Cloud of Confusion; and those Supporters and Props, that held up Her Greatness (loth to submit to Equals) made Scaffolds to his Triumphs.

In the prosecution of what I shall remark, relating to this King, I shall avoid all unnecessary Severity, and observe more Duty and Respect than may possibly be thought due by Posterity, to the Person of a Prince, that (after so exact a Pattern as Queen *Elizabeth* left him) did, by debauching Parliaments, and so often breaking his Word, so far irritate, no less than impoverish the Subject, as his Son was forced to give Concession to one rendered indissolvable but by their own Will: A mischief never could have befallen *England*, had King *James* left them in the same blessed Serene temper he found them, at the Death of the Queen. The News of which was brought him first by *Cary*, after Earl of *Monmouth*, who, not able to satisfie such a concourse of Doubts and Questions, as far more resolute Natures than His do often muster up on like occasions, the King stood as in a maze, being more affected through the fear of Opposition, than pleased with the present Report, till, by a lamer Post, He was advertised of His being joyfully

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Proclaimed in *London*, by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen; and of the unquestioned Reception His Title, in all Places, met with, no less than that the Hopes of some, and Fears of the major part, assisted by the prudent Carriage of the Treasurer, and ranting Protestations of the Earl of *Northumberland* (that in all Places vapoured he would bring Him in by the Sword) had stopped their Mouths, that desired he might be obliged to Articles: Amongst these truly Noble, Heroick, and Publick Spirits, was Sir *Walter Rawleigh*, the Lord *Cobham*, Sir *John Fortescue*, &c. Who were all afterwards ruined by the King; and the Noble Sir *Walter* most Barbarously cut off.

This Prince held his Thoughts so intent upon Ease and Pleasure, that, to avoid any interruption, likely to impede any part of the Felicity he had possessed his imagination with, from the Union of these Crowns, and to fit an Example for his Neighbours imitation, whom he desired to bring into the like Resolution, he cast himself, as it were, blindfold into a Peace with *Spain*, far more destructive to *England* than a War. King *James*, throughout his whole Reign, contenting himself with the humble thought of being a Terror to his own People, not valuing that himself or Nation should make any considerable Figure among Forreign Princes.

At his first coming, he was long detained from *Westminster* by a Plague, looked upon as the greatest, till exceeded in that which broke out after his Death; taken by the ill boding *English* for a presage of worse Days than they had already seen: The good Government of Queen *Elizabeth* not being in probability likely to bear the Charges (without falling into some destructive commotion) of Two such Expensive Princes Succession, without having one more popular to intervene.

After the Peace, of too much concernment to his Catholick Majesty, to afford him leisure to imagine, much less to insert so rugged an Article as the performance of any Promise our King had made before his Reception, in case the Papists did not oppose (which I have found Registred by many, and so high as amounted to a Toleration at least, if not an Establishing of Popery; he then observed in prudence it could not be conceded by this new King, having so many of his Subjects Protestants for one of the *Romish* Profession; and being besides no more Zealous than other Princes, that make use of a Religion only for a Fence to immure their Persons and Prerogatives; but esteem it a meer accident where reason of State drives on a Bargain without it.

These neglects of the Kings of *Spain* and *England*; the first remaining as careless of his Faith, as the other did of the performance of his Word, put the *Roman Catholicks*, for the present, into so great a Despair, that led them into that damned Conspiracy, called the *Gun powder Treason*; the account of which, in general, is so well known, that I need not here enlarge, only give some hints concerning it, which is not common to be met with. The *French* Ambassador, then resident at Court, affirming to some Persons of Quality, his Intimates, That the first Intimation of the *Powder Treason* came from his Master, who received it from the Jesuits of his Faction, to the end he might share in our Ruines: The Kingdom of *England* being, in the Pope's own Judgment, (at that time) too great an addition to that of *Spain*; where, though it was first coined (some say during the days of Queen *Elizabeth*.) yet the Priests that undertook the promoting of it, sought to render it the most beneficial they could to their respective Patrons. And here I cannot omit, that after this happy Discovery, his

his Majeſty ſent an Agent on purpoſe to Cougratulate King *James*'s great Preſervation: A Flattery ſo palpable, as the Pope could not refrain laughing in the Face of Cardinal *D' Oſſat*, when he firſt told it him; nor he forbear to inform his King of it, as may be found in his Printed Letters; it being notorious, that at King *James*'s firſt aſſumption to the Throne of *England*, none ſought his Deſtruction more cordially than the *Spaniard*, till a continued Tract of Experience had fully acquainted him with his Temper. Nor was our King himſelf backward in fomenting this Inuocent Opinion amongſt his Neighbours, but did, as ſoon as he could poſſibly, by neglecting the Royal Ships, and caſting Contempt upon all formerly in Military Imployment (the Wings, Nails, and Teeth of this Nation) to teſtifie to the World he meant to ſpoil no People of their Honour, Lands, Felicity, Goods, or Laws, but only thoſe all Princes celebrated for Wiſdom and Gallantry think themſelves tied in Nature to preſerve; by which he entailed Miſery upon his Succeſſion; and, without the more Mercy of God, Eternal Slavery to, *&c.* For, by penning up the *Engliſh* Valour, and opening the Fountain of Honour with a Succeſſion of neglect caſt upon the Nobility and Commons in their Repreſentatives, by denying them their reaſonable Demands, or deluding them after the Royal aſſent given, by going contrary to what was Enacted; theſe Practiſes put him upon ſuch low Shifts, that he at laſt having rendered himſelf uncapable of Truſt, did ſend to have the Money given by the Parliament, depoſited into the hands of Commiſſioners; out of which he did, notwithſtanding after ſqree it, according as his impertinent Expenſes demanded Supplies. Nor was he more ſteady, faithful, or juſt in his compacts with Foreign Princes, who, in a ſmall

time became so well acquainted with his Complexion, that his Promise did not incite them either to Hope or Fear, or raise in any of them the Passions of Love or Hatred. And this is one of the Reasons then given, why the most Christian King did so far indulge his Preservation, as to advertise him of the former Conspiracy, lest he should exchange *Herb John* for *Coloquintida*. Another, but in my opinion a very weak one (for what obligation can restrain a Prince, that sees an advantage before him) was the Favours received from hence, during the League? But the most probable, was the Advantage *Spain* was likely to make of it, first, by reason he had an Army then ready in *Flanders* to Land in the huge Mist, so black a Cloud must needs have caused over the Nation. Nor could his Holiness himself look upon our Ruine with any affection, *England* being of too great a Consequence to fall under any other Jurisdiction save her own.

To conclude, whosoever revealed this Conspiracy, it cost the King of *France* his Life, not only by questioning the truth of his Conversion, but did raise so a high Suspicion of the immense Treasure, and mighty Army, he had with no less industry than secresie gotten together, (not one living owning to this day the knowledg of his Design) in the Hearts of *Spain* and *Rome*, as they procured his Death: His freedom to the King of *Great Britain* rendring this Silence the more suspected.

Now, to take off the Subjects Eyes from observing the great Indulgency used by King *James*, in behalf of the Papists, a Quarrel was revived (now almost asleep, because it had long escaped Persecution, the Bellows of *Schism*) with a People stiled *Puritans*, who meeting no nearer a definition than the Name of all the Conscientious Men in the Nation shared the Contempt. Since under that gene-

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ral term were comprehended not only those as did oppose the Discipline and Ceremonies of the Church, but such as out of meer honesty refrained the Vices of the Times, were branded by this Title; weaved of such a fashion, as it became a covering to the Wicked, and no better than a Fools Coat to Men truly Conscientious. Neither was any charged with it, though in the best Relation, thought competent for Preferment in Church or Commonweal, which made the Wicked glory in their Impiety, and such as had not an extraordinary measure of Grace, ashamed of any outward profession of Sanctity. Court Sermons were fraught with bitter Invectives against these People, whom they seated in a Class far nearer the confines of Hell than Papists, yet the wisest durst not define them.

To avoid the imputation of Puritanism (a greater rub in the way to Preferment than Vice) our Divines, for the generality, did sacrifice more time to *Bacchus* than *Minerva*; and being excellent Company, drew the most ingenious Laiety into a like excess: And, for their ordinary Studies, they were School-points and passionate Expressions, as more conversant with the Friars than the Fathers, scorning in their ordinary Discourse at *Luther* and *Calvin*, but especially at the last; so as a certain Bishop of this stamp, thank'd God he never (tho' a good Poet himself) had read a Line in Him or *Chaucer*. The same used this simile at Court, *That our Religion, like the Kings-Arms stood between two Beasts, the Puritan and Papist.* Nor did the notorious debauchery of the Episcopal Clergy add a little to the Rent of the Church, much augmented by the *Scottish* Propensity to Presbitery, though the chiefest promoters of it in their Doctrine and Example were the Lecturers, Vicars, and Parsons of inconsiderable Worth and Livings, being the readier to oppose Authority, as having little to loose;

becoming, by this means, the darlings of the Rabble. Nor did the ſuddain Tranſlation of Biſhops, from leſs to greater Sees give time to viſit ſufficiently their reſpective Charges; being more intent upon the receipt of ſuch Taxes, as a long abuſed Cuſtom had eſtated them in, than upon Reformation. I have been the more punctual, becauſe from the Pulpit came all our future Miſeries, God not being ſerved there as he ought. The Court Sermons informing the King he might, as Chriſt's Vicegerent, command all; and that the People, if they denied him Supplement, or inquired after the diſpoſure of it, were preſumptuous Peepers into the ſacred Ark of the State, not to be done but under the ſevereſt Curſe, though it appeared likely to fall, through the falſhood or folly of thoſe at the Helm. But on the contrary, the other qualified Preachers did fulminate againſt Non-reſidency, Prophanation of the *Lords Day*, connivance at *Popery*, Perſecution of *Gods People*.

Now, by this time the Nation grew feeble, and over-oppreſt with *Impoſitions*, *Monopolies*, *Aids*, *Privy Seals*, *Concealments*, *pretermitted Cuſtoms*, &c. beſides all Forfeitures on Penal Statutes, with a multitude of tricks more to cheat the *Engliſh* Subject (the moſt, if not all, unheard of in Queen *Elizabeth*'s Days) which were ſpent upon the *Scots*, by whom nothing was unasked, and to whom nothing was denied; who, for want of honeſt Traffick, did extract Gold out of the Faults of the *Engliſh*, whoſe Pardons they begged and ſold at intollerable Rates; Murder it ſelf not being excepted: Nay, I dare boldly ſay, one Man might more ſafely have killed another, than a raskal Deer; but if a Stag had been known to have miſcarried, and the Author fled, a Proclamation, with the Deſcription of the Party, had been preſently Penned by the Attorney

torney General, and the Penalty of His Majesties high Displeasure (by which was understood the *English Inquisition*, the *Star-Chamber*) threatned against all that did abet, comfort, or relieve him. Thus Satyrical, or if you please Tragical, was this *Sylvian* Prince, against Deer-killers, and indulgent to Man-slayers. This *Star Chamber* was a Den to Arbitrary Justice, where the Keeper for the time being, two Bishops, two Judges, and as many wise Lords, and great Officers Sate, as thought fit to come; the most of whom, though unable to render a reason for their Censure, did, every *Wednesday* and *Friday*, in Term-time, concur like so many Canibals, to tear such as refused to Worship the Minion, or to yield to the pretended Royal Prerogative. Nor did they scape who were any way Satyrical, a thing not to be avoided by the Lovers of Truth; Corruption being as common as Execution, with which it seldom went other than hand in hand.

The palpable Partiality that descended from the King to the *Scots*, did estate the whole love of the *English* upon his Son *Henry*; whom they engaged, by so much expectation, as it may be doubted, whether it ever lay in the Power of any Prince, meerly humane, to bring so much Felicity unto a Nation, as they did all his Life propose to themselves at the Death of King *James*. The Government of this Young Princes House, was with much Discretion, Modesty, Sobriety, and (which was looked upon as too great an upbraiding, the contrary proceedings of his Father) in an high reverence to Piety, not Swearing himself, nor keeping any that did: through which he came to be advanced, beyond an ordinary measure in the Affections of the City; to whom he was not only plausible in his Carriage, but very just in Payments, so

far as his Credit out-reached the King's, both in the Exchange and the Church; in which the Son could not take so much Felicity, as the Father did Discontent, to find all the worth he imagined in himself wholly lost in the hopes the People had of this young Gentleman; from whence Kings may be concluded far more unhappy than ordinary Men; for tho' whilst Children are young, they may afford them safety, yet when arrive at that Age, which used to bring comfort to other Parents, they produce only Jealousie and Fear: For if Deformed, Foolish, or Vitious, they offend the natural Disposition of a Father, who cannot but desire his Issue perfect; if they prove otherwise, and be excellent, that of a Prince, because his Reign must needs be thought dim and tedious who hath such a Spark to succeed him as this *Henry*, which, in all Mens Judgments, appeared more illustrious than his old Father. Thus are Kings found as remote from Felicity with Children, as from safety without: And, as the last of these Considerations have tempted some to Acknowledge the Issue of Strangers.

If the positive Assertions of some, as well as common Fame does not out-strip Truth, King *James* was by Fear led into great and strange Extreams (finding his Son *Henry*, not only averse to any *Popish* Match, but saluted by the *Puritans*, as one prefigured in the Apocalyps for *Rome*'s Destruction) insinuating, as if the Prince was not kindly dealt by; I should quite have omitted this conjecture, and left it wholly to the Decision of the great Tribunal, was it not certain, that his Father did dread him; and that the King, though he would not deny him any thing he plainly desired, yet it appeared rather the result of Fear and outward Complyance, than Love and natural Affection.

This

This King's extravagant Anti-Suppers was a Vanity not heard of in Fore-Fathers time, or ever practised since; and for ought I have read, unpractised by the most Luxurious Tyrants: The manner of which was, to have the Board covered at the first entrance of the Guest with Dishes seven Foot high, filled with the choicest Viands Sea or Land could afford, and all this once seen, and having seasted the Eyes of the invited, was in a manner thrown away, and fresh set on to the same height: An Attendance on the King Eat at one of these Suppers a whole Pye valued at Ten Pounds Sterling, being composed of Ambersgreece Musk, *&c.*

As no other reason seemed to appear in this Kings choice but handsomness; so the love the King shewed was as amorously conveyed, as if he had mistaken their Sex, and thought them Ladies; which *Somerset* and *Buckingham* did labour to resemble, in the Effeminateness of their Dressings; though in wanton Looks, and wanton Gestures, they exceeded any part of Woman-kind, Nor was his Love, or what else the World will please to call it, carried on with a Discression sufficient to cover a less scandalous Behaviour; for the King kissing them after so lascivious a Mode in Publick, and upon the Theatre (as it were) of the World, prompted many ro imagine things done in the Tiring-House, that exceed my Expression, no less than they do my Experience.

Now, as to the Poysoning Business of Sir *Thomas Overbury*; on which account King *James* made so many dreadful Imprecations upon himself and Posterity, not to spare any that were found Guilty, but how he failed the Relation will inform.

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The Earl of *Montgomery* declining in his Favour with King *James*, Mr. *R. Carr*, a very handsome Gentleman, and well bred, appear'd upon the Stage; who chose for his chief Companion Sir *Thomas Overbury*, a Gentleman of excellent Parts, but very Proud and Haughty. Now was *Carr* Knighted, and *Overbury*'s Pride rose with the others Honours; then was the strife between the Two great Statesmen, *Salisbury* and *Suffolk*, who should most indear themselves with this great Favourites Creature *Overbury*, but he with a kind of scorn neglected both their Friendships.

Northampton finding himself neglected by so mean a Spark (as he thought) follow'd *Balaam*'s Counsel, by sending a *Moabitish* Woman unto him, in which he made use of one *Coppinger*, a Gentleman who had spent a fair Estate, and to supply his necessities, was turned a kind of Procurer, or what the present Town calls a *Cock Bawd*. This *Moabitish* Woman was a Daughter of the Earl of *Suffolk*, and Wife to the young Earl of *Essex*.

This Train took, and the first private Meeting was at *Coppinger*'s House: This privacy in their stollen Pleasure, made *Coppinger* a Friend to *Northampton* and *Suffolk*, though but a Servant to Viscount *Rochester*, for so was *Carr* now made.

Overbury was that *John Baptist* that reproved the Lord for that Sin of using the Lady, and abusing the young Earl; he would often call her Strumpet, and her Mother and Brothers Bawds, *&c.*

Then to satisfie *Overbury*, and blot out the name of Sin, his Love led him into a more desperate way, by a Resolution to Marry another Man's Wife; against this then did *Overbury* exclaim much louder: On which a Council was held to concert about the best means to be rid of him.

The Plot then was, he must be sent a Leidger Ambassador into *France*; which by obeying, they should be rid of so great an Eye-sore; by disobeying, he incurred the Displeasure of his Prince, a Contempt that he could not expect less than Imprisonment for, and by that means be sequestred from his Friends.

And thus far I do believe the Earl of *Somerset* (for so was he now made) was consenting; this Stratagem took, and *Overbury* might truly say, (*Video meliora deteriora sequar*) for he indeed made the worst choice, it could not be thought but such an Imployment was much better for him to have accepted, than to be confined to a loathsome Prison.

Having him now fast in Prison, *Herodias*, by pleasing her *Herod*, must also ask, and have his Life; for, *Perscelus ad scelera, tutior est via*; to that end they preferred *Empostes* to be Servant to Sir *Gervase Elway's*, then Lieutenant of the *Tower*, and a very Wise, Religious Gentleman, he was so ignorant of the Plot, as he never Dreamt of any such matter, until one day (as it should seem) *Weston* being told *Elways* did know wherefore he was preferred unto him to wait on *Overbury*; he asked the Lieutenant whether he should now do it, *Elways* replied, What? *Weston* at that being somewhat abashed, which *Elways* quickly apprehended, replied, *No, not yet*; for he did believe there was something known to *Weston*; instantly he hasted away (being a little before Dinner) and went into his Study, and *Weston* being come, he examined him the meaning of that Question; at last, between fair means and threatning, perswaded him to confess the Truth; then *Elways*, as he well could, laid before *Weston* the horridness of the Fact, the torments of *Hell*, &c. At last made him

ſo ſenſible, that he gave the Lieutenant humble thanks, for that he had been inſtrumental in ſaving his Soul, by putting him off from ſo foul Intentions, and faithfully promiſed never to be concerned in ſo foul an Act, and for a long time as faithfully performed. The Lieutenant ordered *Weſton* to bring him ſuch things as were ſent to give *Overbury*, which he accordingly did; the Lieutenant ever gave them to Doggs and Catts, ſome of which died preſently, others lingred ſome time.

During this time, the Earl continued ſending to viſit *Overbury*, wheedling him with an aſſurance that he did not forget his Releaſe: At laſt, the Counteſs growing impatient, ſent for *Weſton*, reviling him, ſaying, he was a *Treacherous Villain*, on which he promiſed her Fidelity to the future; yet the Counteſs would not truſt him alone any more, but joined one *Franklin* to him, a greater Villain than himſelf.

Some time after theſe Two Villains had carried *Overbury* the Tarts, they went to his Chamber, and found him in great Torment, with Contention between ſtrength of Nature, and working of the Poyſon, and they fearing Nature would have gotten the better, and that it might come upon the judgment of Phyſicians that foul Play had been offered him, they immediately ſtifled him between Two Pillows, and ſo ended his miſerable Life, with the aſſurance of the Conſpirators, that he dyed by Poyſon, none thinking otherwiſe but the Two Murtherers.

Now this grand obſtacle being removed, the Adulterous Marriage muſt be brought about; and for the more eaſie effecting of it, they did (without much trouble) make the King a Party in this Bawdy buſineſs, and the Biſhops likewiſe muſt be principal Actors in bringing this Bawdery to a Marriage,

riage, of whom *Bilson*, Bishop of *Winchester* was chief; for which the King Knighted his Son.

The Bishops had many Meetings, in which there wanted no Bribes from the Lord and Lady to have this Nullity brought to pass, wherein the Discourse would have better befitted the Mouths of Bawds and Ruffians than grave Divines.

Arch-bishop *Abbot* opposed and protested against all their Proceedings: for which the King held him in disgrace to his Dying day.

To make up the full measure of Bawdry, and to justifie the Nullity; a search must be made into the Lady, to find whether there had been a Penetration, and a Jury of grave Matrons were found fit for that purpose; who, with their Spectacles ground to lessen, not to make the *Letter* larger, after their Inspection into the Premises, gave Verdict, she was *Intacta Virgo*, which was thought very strange, for the World took notice, that her way was very common, before ever *Somerset* trod in it; besides they two having lived so long in Adultery together. The Plot was contrived thus, The Lady of *Essex*, pretending Modesty, makes humble Suit to the Bawdy Bishops (who were all concerned in this Stratagem) that she might come Vailed into the Court, which they all readily granted: One Mrs. *Turner* was dressed in the Countesses Cloaths; and at that time too young to be other than *Virgo Intacta*.

Now is the Nullity pronounced, and the Marriage with *Somerset* speedily Solemnized, but sweet Meat must have sowr Sawce: For not long after, *Thrumbal*, Agent at *Bruxels*, had (by one *Reeve*, an Apothecaries Prentice in *London*, that was come there on some Occasions) gotten hold of this Poysoning Business, on which he presently wrote to Secretary *Wynwood*, that he had business of great

consequence to discover, but would not send it: therefore desired License to come over; which after some time the King granted; and now had they good Testimony by the Apothecary, who revealed *Weston*, Mrs. *Turner*, and *Francklin*, to be the Principal Agents; yet, it being the time of the King's Progress, nothing was done in it till his Return.

Secretary *Wynwood* having been affronted, and much abused by *Somerset*, in his Secretaryship, does now carry himself in a kind of braving way against him, being struck in with the Faction of *Villier*'s who was now the rising Sun, and King *James*'s darling Favourites.

King *James* being returned from his Summers Progress, returns to *Windsor*, from thence to *Hampton-Court*, then to *White-Hall*, and shortly after to *Royston*, to begin his Winter Journey. And now begins the Game to be plaid, in which the Earl, and Countess of *Somerset* must be Losers; the Lord Chief Justice *Coke*, and Secretary *Wynwood*, the managers against them.

The day the King went from *White-Hall* to *Theobald*'s, and so to *Royston*, he sent for all the Judges, (his Lords and Servants encircling him) where kneeling down in the midst, he spoke to them as followeth.

My Lords, the Judges, It is lately come to my hearing, that you have now in Examination a Business of Poysoning, Lord! in what a most miserable Condition shall this Kingdom be (the only famous Nation for Hospitality in the World) if our Tables should become such a Snare, as none could Eat without danger of Life; and the Italian *Custom be introduced among us: Therefore, my Lords, I Charge you, as you will answer it at the great and dreadful day of Judgment, that you will examine it strictly, without Favour, Affection, or Partiality;*

lity; and if you shall spare any that are found Guilty of this Crime, God's *Curse light on you, and your Posterity: And if I spare any,* God's *Curse light on Me, and my Posterity for ever.*

But how this dreadful Thunder Curse or Imprecation was performed, the following account will shew.

The King goes to *Roston*, accompanied with the Earl of *Somerset*; the next day the Earl being to go to *London*, went to kiss the King's Hand, who hanged about his Neck, slabberiug his Cheeks, saying, *When shall I see you again? On my Soul, I shall neither Eat nor Sleep until you come again:* The Earl told him in about three days: *For God's sake let me,* said the King, *Shall I, shall I?* Then lolled about his Neck, slabbering his Cheeks as formerly; the Earl was scarcely in his Coach, when the King used these very Words, *I shall never see his Face more.* Let the Reader judge whether this *Motto* of *Qui nescit dissimilare, nescit regnare*, was not as well performed in this Passage, as his *Beati Pacifici*, in the whole course of his Life. But before *Somerset*'s approach to *London*, his Countess was apprehended; at his Arrival, himself.

Now are in Hold, the Earl, his Countess, Sir *Thomas Monson*, Mrs. *Turner*, *Weston*, and *Franklin*, with some others of less Note; the three last Named were immediately Arraigned, Tryed, and Executed.

The next that came on the Stage was the Countess, and Sir *T. Monson*, but the King being informed that the latter would discover some Secrets of Prince *Henry*'s Death, and other Court Intreagues, He immediately dispatched an Order to *Coke* to stop Prosecution: And now for the last Act enters *Somerset* himself on the Stage, about whom many Stratagems were used, and the King was put in

great Fear before they could get him from the *Tower* to *Westminster*, to take his Tryal; but it was at last affected by a Stratagem of Sir *George Moor*, Lieutenant of the *Tower*, but yet (for fear he should flie out into some strange Discovery against the King) he had two Servants placed on each side of him, with a Cloak on their Arms, giving them a peremptory Order, if that *Somerset* did any way flie out on the King. they should instantly Hoodwink him with that Cloak, and take him violently from the *Bar*: But the Earl finding himself thus over-reached, recollected a better Temper, and went on calmly in his Tryal, where he held the Company till Seven at Night: But whoever had seen the King's restless motion all that Day, sending to every Boat he see Landing at *Greenwich-Bridge*, Cursing all that came without Tydings, would have easily judged all was not right, and there had been some grounds of his Fears of *Somerset*'s Boldness: But, at last, one brings him word he was Condemned, and the Passages, all was quiet.

And there were other strong Inducements to believe *Somerset* knew, that (by him) he desired none other should be partaker of, and that all was not Peace within, in the Peace-maker himself; for he ever courted *Somerset* to his dying Day, and gave him Four Thousand Pounds, *per Annum*, for Fee Farm Rents, after he was Condemned, and the King kept Correspondence Weekly with him by Letters, to his Death.

Some are of Opinion that his Countess and he would both have suffered, had it not been for an unhappy Expression of Chief Justice *Coke*, who, in a vain glorious Speech, to shew his Vigilancy, enters into a Raptrure, as he sate on the Bench, saying, *God knows what become of that sweet Babe, Prince* Henry; *But I know somewhat.* And surely,

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in ſearching the Cabinets, he lighted on ſome Papers, that ſpoke plain in that which was ever whiſpered; which had he gone on in a gentle way, would have fall'n in of themſelves, not to have been prevented; but this folly of hit Tongue ſtopt the breath of the Diſcovery of that ſo foul a Murther.

And now begins *Villers*, the new Favorite to Reign, without any controulment; now he riſes in Honour as well as Pride, being broken out of the modeſt bounds that formerly had impailed him, to the High-way of Pride and Scorn, turning out, and putting in all he pleaſed. Firſt, he gets the Lord-Admiral turned out, and himſelf made Lord High Admiral. Next, He procured the Seal to be taken from *Egerton*, Lord Keeper, and procures the place for *Bacon*, who was to pay him a large Penſion out of it; *Heath*, Attorney General, paid a Penſion; *Bargrave* Dean, paid a Penſion; with multitudes of others: *Fotherby* made Biſhop of *Salisbury*, paid down 3500 *l.* for his Biſhoprick. There were Books of Rates on all Offices, Biſhopricks, Deaneries in *England*, that could tell you what Fines, what Penſions; all which went to maintain his numerous Beggarly Kindred, which otherwiſe it had been almoſt impoſſible to have maintained them with Three Kingdoms Revenue.

Then muſt theſe Women Kindred be Married to Earls, and Earls Eldeſt Sons, Barons, or chief Gentlemen of greateſt Eſtates; inſomuch that the very Female Kindred were ſo numerous, as ſufficient to have Peopled any Plantation: Nay, the very Kitchin-Wenches were Married to Knights Eldeſt Sons.

Propoſals being made for a Match with the Infanta of *Spain*, and ſome Progreſs being made therein, it was reſolved,

That

That Sir John Digby, *by Commission under the great Seal, was authorized to treat and conclude the Marriage; and because the matter of Religion was in chief Debate, those qualified Articles that were brought out of* Spain, *were sent back, signed with the King's Hand. They were to this Effect.*

That the Pope's Dispensation be first obtained by the meer Act of the King of Spain.

That the Children of this Marriage be not constrained to be brought up Protestants, nor their Titles to the Crown prejudiced in case they prove Catholicks.

That the Infanta's Family may be Catholicks, and shall have places appointed for their Divine Service, according to the Use of the Church of Rome, *and that the Jesuits, and other Ecclesiasticks and Priests may walk in their proper Habits.*

That she shall have a competent number of Jesuits, Priests and Chaplains; and a Confessor always attending Her, one whereof shall have Power to govern the Family in Religious Matters.

The People of *England* having in Memory the intended Cruelty of 88. and hating the Popish Religion, generally hated this Match, and loathed the thoughts of having the *Romish* Priests to walk about the Streets in their Habits, and would have bought it off at the deerest Rate; and, what they durst, oppos'd it by Speeches, Counsels, Wishes, Prayers; but if any one speak louder than his Fellows, he was soon put to silence, disgraced, and crossed in Court Preferments. The *Roman Catholicks* desired the Match

Match above Measure, hoping for a Toleration, yea, a total Restauration of their Religion: For, besides the publick Articles, these following private ones, in Favour of the *Roman Catholicks*, were subscribed and sworn to by the King; they were in substance as followeth,

I. *That particular Laws made against* Roman Catholicks, *as likewise general Laws, under which, all are equally comprised, if so be they are such which are Repugnant to the* Romish Religion, *shall not hereafter on any Account, or Means, be put in Execution against them.*

II. *That no other Laws shall hereafter be made anew, against the said* Roman Catholicks; *but that there shall be a perpetual Toleration of the* Roman Catholick Religion.

III. *That We, and the Prince of* Wales, *will interpose our Authority, and will do as much as in us shall lie, That the Parliament shall Approve, Confirm, and Ratifie, all and singular Articles, in Favour of the* Roman Catholicks. *And that hereafter we will not consent that the said Parliament should ever at any time Enact, or Write any other new Laws against* Roman Catholicks.

The great Concessions of King *James*, towards the *Roman Catholicks*, brought great swarms of Priests and Jesuits into *England*, who were busie in drawing the People from the Protestant Religion: And a titular Bishop of *Calcedon*, privately came to *London*, to Exercise Episcopal Jurisdiction over the *Roman Catholicks* of this Kingdom.

'Tis

'Tis said that the King had now so much confidence of the Match, as to say openly in the Court That now all the Devils in Hell could not break it.

The *Spaniards*, the better to cover their Designs, ordered that the Infanta should be stiled the *Princess of England*; and she was kept no longer in her Virgin Retirements.

The *Spanish* Match having been long in Treaty, and it being suspected now, that the *Spaniard* did juggle with the States in this, as they formerly did in a Match with that brave Prince *Henry*. Whether the King suspected any such matter, or any whimsie came into the Brains of the great Favourite and Prince, to imitate the old Stories of the Knights Errand; but agreed it was (it should seem) that the Prince must go himself very privately into *Spain*, with his Favourite *Buckingham*, under the borrowed Names of *Jack* and *Tom Smith*; and they had the Ports laid so, that none should follow them to give any Notice to the *French* Court, through which they must pass.

And now many Lords, and other Servants, flock over, that he might appear the Prince of *Great Britain*. Many Treaties were, sometimes Hope, sometimes Fear, sometimes great Assurance, then all dasht again. At last, after many Heats and Cools, the Prince wrote a Letter to his Father, of a desperate Despair, not only of not enjoying his Lady, but of never more rerurning.

Now the folly of this Voyage began to appear, many smiling at the Follies, that were concerned in it; and however the King was a cunning Dissembler, and shewed much outward Sorrow, as he did for Prince *Henry*'s Death; yet the Court believed little Grief came near his Heart; for that secret Hatred he had of late bore to *Buckingham* (as being sati-

ſatiated with him,) and his Adorning the Riſing Sun, made it generally thought that he would not value the loſing his Son, ſo that *Buckingham* might be loſt alſo: Yet *Buckingham* had ſo much awe over the King, that he durſt not make ſhew to affect any other.

One great Reaſon of the King's Hating of *Buckingham* was, a large Information that he privately received from one *Innioſa*, an Extraordinary Ambaſſador from *Spain*, of *Buckingham*'s Deſign on his Perſon, whether by Poyſon, Piſtol, Dagger, *&c.* he could not tell.

Buckingham being fully ſatisfied on ſeveral Accounts of the great Hatred the King now bore unto him. He turned as great a Hater of the King; and though the King had more power to Revenge, He had leſs Courage. And however, the World did believe the King's Inclinations was out of a Religious ground that he might not Revenge; yet it was no other but a Cowardly Diſpoſition, that durſt not adventure. But altho the King loſt his opportunity on *Buckingham*, yet the black Plaiſter and Powder did ſhew, *Buckingham* loſt not his on the King; and that it was no Fiction, but a Reality, that *Padro Maceſtria* had formerly told the King.

And now the Prince returns from *Spain*, and all the fault of the Match not ſucceeding is laid on *Briſtol*, who was Ambaſſador there. And *Buckingham*, from an Accuſed Man in the former Parliament, came to be the Darling of this Parliament. And in the Banquetting-Houſe, before both Houſes of Parliament, does *Buckingham* give an Account at large of his *Spaniſh* Voyage; and to every full point (as a further Atteſtation) he ſaith, *How ſay you, Sir?* To which the Prince anſwered, *I*, *Yea*, or *Yes*. *Briſtol* having ſome Friends that ſent Advice

of

of All into *Spain*. He immediately posts into *England*, makes *Buckingham*'s Relation and Accusation wholly False and Scandalous, and becomes a great Favourite to King *James*. I shall now bring the *Secret Story* of this King's Life to an end.

He now goes his last Hunting Journey (I mean the last of the Year, as well as his Life) which he ever ended in *Lent*, and was seised on by an extraordinary *Tertian Ague*; yet 'twas not the *Ague*, as himself confessed to many of his Servants; one of which crying, *Courage Sir, this is but a small Fit, the next will be none at all:* At which he most earnestly looked, and said, *Ah! It is not the Ague afflicteth me; but the black Plaister and Powder given me, and laid to my Stomach.* Nor was it fair Dealing, if he had fair Play (which himself suspected, often saying to the Earl of *Montgomery*, whom he trusted above all Men, in his Sickness, *For God's sake look I have fair Play*) to bring in an Emperick to apply any Medicines, whilst those Physicians appointed to attend him, were at Dinner; nor could any but *Buckingham* answer it with less than his Life. *Buckingham* visiting the King just as he was at the point of Death, who mournfully fixt his Eyes on him, as who would have said, You are the Man that has ruined me.

It were worth the knowledge what his Confessions was, or what other Expressions he made of himself, or any other, but that was only known to the Dead Arch-Bishop *Abbot*, and the then living Bishop *Williams*, and the Lord-keeper; and it was thought, *Williams* had blabbed something which incensed the King's Anger, and *Buckingham*'s Hatred, so much against him, that the loss of his Place could not be explatory sufficient, but his utter ruine must be determined.

Now

Now have we brought this King (who ſtiled himſelf the *King of Peace*, and put on Mortality the 27th. of *March*) to reſt in all Peace: We ſhall conclude his Remarks, with an *Appendix*, ~~ſhewing the particulars of a great many Millions~~ of good *Engliſh* Money, even to an almoſt incredible Sum, this King Expended on his Fruitleſs Embaſſies, B——ng Favourites, Beggarly *Scots*, Ant-Suppers, Maſqueradoes, and other Buffoons, even to a far greater Sum than his Predeceſſor (Queen *Elizabeth* of Happy Memory, Expended in all Her Wars in *Ireland*, and with *Spain*, &c. during her Forty Four Years Reign.

King *JAMES*'s LETTER TO Pope *CLEMENT*.

Most Holy Father,

HAVING *understood by several Reports, how diligent the Rivals of our Condition have been, that the* Sword *of your Authority should be unsheathed against us, and with what constancy your Prudence hath hitherto refused it, we could do no less than return Thanks for such a good turn received, especially upon so fair an Occasion, when the Bearer of these, a* Scotch *Man, by Nation, but a* Roman, *by Adoption, was returning unto your Dominion; We recommend him to your Holiness (to whom, for his good Parts, you have been already Beneficial) that you would attentively hear him in those things which he shall deliver in our Name:*

Name: And because we know there is no better Remedy against the Calumnies of Ill Willers (who by commemorating our Injuries done to Catholicks, procure Envy to us, and Thanks to themselves) then that some of our Country-Men, Zealous of the Truth, though differing from the Religiin which we have sucked from our Infancy, should have an Honourable Occasion of making their abode in the Court of Rome, *from whom your Holiness may be certainly informed of the state of our Affairs. In this regard, We recommend to you the Bishop of* Vazion; *who, as he doth impute whatsoever increase of his condition to your Holyness alone; so We are earnest Suitors, that for our sake especially, the Honour of the Cardinals Cap may be added to his former Advantages. By this means the Calumny of our Enemies will cease, when such are present with you, who may be able to assert the truth of our doing. We do not desire any of our Actions should be concealed from just Arbitrators; for though We have been bred up in the Truth of that Religion which we now profess, yet We have always determined, That there is nothing better and safer than piously, and without ostentation, to endeavour the promoting of those things which really belong to the Glory of God's Name, and laying aside the Goads of Envy, and applying the warmth and fomentation of Charity, diligently to consider what belongeth not to the empty Name of Religion, but to the Holy Symbol of true Piety. But because we have discoursed more at large of these things, with the Bearer hereof, a Man not Unlearned, and indifferently well conversant in our Affairs, We have thought best to be no more tedious by a long Letter.*

Your Holiness's

From *Holy Rood*,
Septemb. 24. 1599.

Most Dutiful Son,
James Rex.

This Letter was conveyed by *Edward Drummond*, the Lawyer, whom the King sent to the Pope, the Duke of *Tuskany*, the Duke of *Savoy*, and other Princes and Cardinals.

First, *You shall most respectively Salute, in Our Name, the Pope, and those other Princes and Cardinals, and having delivered our* Letters of Credence *shall signifie.*

That we exceedingly desire to reserve with them the measure of Love and Good Will, which is fitting to remove not only all suspicion, but any thing that may be the cause of suspicion.

That altho we persist in the Religion which we sucked from our Infancy, yet we are not so void of Charity, but to think well of all Christians, if so be they continue in their Duty first towards God, and then towards the Magistrate, whose Subjects they are.

That we never exercised any Cruelty against the Catholicks, *for their Religion.*

And because it doth very much concern us, that we may be able to assert the Truth, by our Friends and Subjects, with the same diligence that Slanderers Lye; therefore you shall endeavour to the utmost to perswade the Pope, as well at our Entreaty, as for the desire of these most illustrious Princes, whom in our Letters *we have solicited on our behalf, to make the* Bishop of Vazion *Cardinal, wherein if you be successful, as soon as we shall be certified thereof, we will proceed further. You must be cautious not to proceed any farther in this business, either with the Pope, or the most Illustrious Cardinals, unless there be a certain hope of our wished event.*

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THE SECRET HISTORY OF King CHARLES I.

THE Misfortunes of this Monarch, Son to King *James*, with the uncouth, dismal, and unexpressable Calamities that happened thereupon, was in a great measure caused by the imprudent Commissions, and voluntary Omissions of King *James*: As it may justly be said, He, like *Adam*, by bringing the Crown into so great a Necessity, through profuse Prodigality, became the Original of his Sons Fall; who was, in a manner compell'd to stretch out his Hands towards such Gatherings and Taxes as were contrary to Law; by which He fell from the Paradice of a Prince, to wit, The Hearts of his People, though the best Politicians extant, might Miscarry in their Calculation of a Civil-War, immediately to follow, upon the Death of Queen *Elizabeth*, in Vindication of the nume-

rous Titles and Opinions then current: Yet the Beggarly Rabble attending King *James*, not only at his first coming out of *Scotland*, but through his whole Reign (like a fluent Spring) found still crossing the River *Tweed*, did so far justifie the former conjecture, as it was only thought mistaken in relation to time.

The first thing this King did, after the performing his Father's Funeral Rights, was the consummating the Marriage with *Henrietta Maria*, a Daughter of *France*, whom he had formerly seen in his Journey, through that Countrey into *Spain*.

The King then call'd a Parliament, who met the 11th. of *June* following; to whom he represented, in a short Speech, *The urgent necessity of raising a Subsidy, to carry on the War with* Spain.

But the Parliament presented first their Two Petitions, concerning Reasons of Religion, and Complaint of their Sufferings; which points had been offered to his Father, King *James*: In both which they at present received Satisfaction. Upon which the King obtained two Subsidies to be paid by Protestants, and four by Papist Laiety, and three from the Clergy.

On the 11th. of *July*, 1625. the Parliament was Adjourned till *August* the 1st; when the King declared to them the necessity of setting forth a Fleet, for the Recovery of the *Palatinate*: The Lord Treasurer instanced the several Sums of Money King *James* died Indebted to the City of *London*; this occasioned very warm Debates in the House of Commons, who alleadged, *That Evil Councils guided the King's Designs: That the Treasury was misimployed: That it would be necessary to Petition the King for Honester and Abler Councils: That it was not usual to grant Subsidies upon Subsidies in one Parliament, and no Grievances Redressed*; with many

ny other of the like nature. And being incenſed againſt the Duke of *Buckingham*, they began to think of diveſting him of his Office, and to require an account of the publick Money, &c. To prevent which, the King Diſſolved the Parliament.

And now the King's put upon taking up Money upon Loan, of ſuch Perſons as were thought of Ability to Lend. To whom Letters were Iſſued out in the King's Name to excite them to it.

But this not anſwering, the King Summons a Parliament to Sit, *Feb. 6.* and being Met, they fell immediately upon Debate of the publick Grievances, much the ſame as the former.

Then the Houſe of Commons were very buſie in ſearching the Signet Office, for the Original of a Letter, under the Signet, written to the Mayor of *York*, for Reprieving divers Prieſts and Jeſuits. This was Reported by *Pim*, Chair-Man to the Committee for Religion; but the King immediately demanded a ſupply for the *Engliſh* and *Iriſh* Forces. This was highly reſented by the Commons, and ſeveral ſharp Speeches were made in the Houſe.

But notwithſtanding, the Commons at laſt Voted Three Subſidies, and Three Fifteens; and the Bill ſhall be brought in as ſoon as the Grievances, which were Repreſented, were Redreſſed. But the King obſerving they did not make the haſte he expected, ſends a ſharp Meſſage to them, complains againſt their Grievances, and juſtifies the Duke of *Buckingham*.

The Commons in Anſwer, preſent an high Remonſtrance, and juſtifie themſelves.

To which the King ſends them Anſwer, by *Finch*, their Speaker, *That if they did not paſs the Bill of Subſidy, by the end of the week following, it would enforce him to take other Reſolutions*, &c.

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Before the Commons sent an Answer, they Petitioned His Majesty, *That he would be pleased to remove from all Places of Trust and Authority, all such Persons as were either Recusants, or suspected to be such.*

And the Commons then drew up another Declaration of Grievances, against the Duke of *Buckingham*, who being thereat Incensed, Dissolved the Parliament, the very next day, *June* 15. 1626. Then the King's Cabal Council resolved on several ways for advancing the King's Revenue: First, Levying of Customs, and Imposts on all Merchandize. Privy Seals were Issued out, and Benevolences proposed; and, at length, a Commission for a general Loan was resolved on: But the Assessment of the Loan was generally opposed; whereupon, the People of the lower Rank were ordered to appear in the *Military-Yard*, next St. *Martins in the Fields*, before the Lieutenant of the *Tower*, to be Listed for Soldiers; it being then thought necessary, for the better security of the Liberty of the Subject, That those which refused to assist with their Purses, should be forced to Serve in their Persons: Others of better Quality were committed Prisoners to the *Fleet*, *Marshalsea*, *Gate-House*, &c. And among others, Sir *J. Eliot*, who Petitioned his Majesty, and repeated many Precedents, *That all manner of Taxes, in former Kings Reigns, were never Levied, but by consent of Parliament*: However, he was Committed, and Sir *P. Hayman*, was forced to serve the King in the *Palatinate*.

Dr. *Sybthorp* and *Maynwaring*, Two Court Preachers, about this time, preached up the Necessity and Duty of the Loan; one of them asserting, *That the Prince had Power to direct his Council, and make Laws himself.* The other affirmed, *That the King's Royal Command, in imposing of Laws and Taxes, though*

though without consent in Parliament, did oblige the Subjects Conscience, upon pain of Eternal Damnation.

Which Position was entertained with such great Applause at Court, that *Abbot* was suspended his Archiepiscopal Sea, for refusing to License the Sermon wherein it was contained.

In 1627. (being the Third Year of the King's Reign) the Exchequer being very low; and several late Enterprises having miscarried, a Parliament was called, and on the 27th. of *March* they Assembled; and the King, and Lord Keepers, in Two Speeches, earnestly pressed them to consider of some speedy way for supplying his Majesties Necessities. The first thing taken into Consideration by the Commons was the Grievances of the Kingdom: And the first thing insisted on, was the Case of those Gentlemen for refusing the Loan; and who, notwithstanding their *Habeas Corpus*, were remanded to Prison; and it was Resolved, in the House, *Nemine Contradicente, That no man ought to be Restrained by the King or Privy-Council, without some Cause of the Commitment.* Secondly, *That the Writ of* Habeas Corpus *ought to be granted to every Man upon Request, that is Restrained, on which he ought to be Bayled, if cause of Commitment be not Declared.*

Then the Parliament petitioned against Popish Recusants; to which the King gave them a satisfactory Answer. After which, five Subsidies were granted to the King, which gave him so great Satisfaction, that he sent them word, *He would deny them nothing of their Liberties which any of his Predecessors had Granted:* Whereupon, the Commons fell upon the Memorable Petition of Right. And when it was presented, the Answer the King gave to it, was not judged Satisfactory by the Commons,

and

and therefore upon their Petition, the King gave them this ſhort, but full Anſwer, *Let it be done according to your deſire.* Which Anſwer mightily pleaſed both Houſes. And his Majeſty for further Satisfaction, ſuffered the Commiſſion for Loan and Exciſe to be Cancelled, and received *Abbot* and *Williams* into his Favour again; ſo that all Diſcontents on every ſide ſeemed to be baniſhed.

In 1628. (the Fourth year of the King's Reign) the Parliament drew up a Remonſtrance againſt *Buckingham*, Biſhop *Neal*, and *Laud*, which they preſented to the King, with the Bill of Subſidies; His Majeſty told them, *That he expected not ſuch a Return for his favourable Anſwer to the Petition of Right; and as for the Grievances, he would take time to Conſider.* An Information being likewiſe Exhibited againſt the Duke in the Star-Chamber. The King, by his expreſs Will and Pleaſure, Ordered that it ſhould be taken off the File, and the King reſolving to hold up the Duke, Adjurned the Parliament to the 20th. of *October* following. But ſoon after, the Duke was ſummoned to Anſwer at a Higher Tribunal, by the means of one *Felton*, a Lieutenant, who ſtabbed him to the Heart with a Dagger.

The Parliament were further Adjourned to *January* 20. in which time the Merchants refuſing to pay Cuſtom, had their Goods ſeized: Complaints thereof being made to the Parliament, the King requires them to paſs the promis'd Bill for Tunnage and Poundage; but the Commons anſwered, That *God's Cauſe was to be preferred before the King's; and that they would therefore, in the firſt place, Conſult about Religion*: One Committee being for Religion, and another for Civil Matters. At the laſt, was a Complaint about the Cuſtoms, and the Farmers of the Cuſtoms were Challenged. But the King vindicated them; and the Parliament being upon proceeding

ceeding against them as Delinquents, the King Adjourned them till the 10th. of *March*. The Commons enraged thereat, blamed their Speaker for admitting the Meſſage, and Ordered Sir *J. Elliot* to draw up their Remonſtrance; which was in very high Terms, about Tunnage and Poundage, &c. The ſubſtance was as followeth,

I. *VVhoſoever ſhall indeavour to Introduce Popery, Arminianiſm, or other than Orthodox Opinion, ſhall be reputed a Capital Enemy to the Kingdom.*

II. *VVhoſoever ſhall Counſel the taking of Tunnage and Poundage, or ſhall yield Voluntary, or pay the ſame, without being granted by Parliament, ſhall be deemed a Betrayer of, and Enemy to the Liberties of* England.

Theſe things were ſo much diſliked by the King, that he ſent the Uſher of the Black Rod to Diſſolve them, who was not admitted in: Whereupon, the King with his Guard of Penſioners, were reſolv'd to force their Entrance; which the Commons having notice of it, they ſuddenly went out of the Houſe. And this was the end of that Parliament.

Some, conſidering that neither this nor the Two former Parliaments complied with the Humour of the King, or Miniſters of State, adviſed the King never to Call another: And to that end, the Famous Book of *Protects* was Publiſhed, and Addreſt to the King, propoſing ſome Methods to prevent the Impertinency of Parliaments (as he calls them) from time to time, by the Example of *Lewis* XI. of *France*; who, pretending that the Commons did en-

encroach too much on the Nobility and Clergy, Diſſolv'd it; and never after ſuffered the People freely to Elect their Repreſentatives.

In the Year 1634. The Deſign of *Ship-Money* was firſt ſet on Foot; and Attorney General *Noy* being conſulted about, he pretends, out of ſome Muſty Records, to find an Ancient Preſident of raiſing a Tax on the Nation, by the Authority of the King alone, for ſetting out a Navy in caſe of danger; which was thereupon put in Execution, though not without great Diſcontent, both among the Clergy and Laiety.

Diſcontents in *Scotland* likewiſe began to increaſe, and a Book was Printed and Publiſhed, charging the King with indirect Proceedings, and having a tendency to the *Romiſh* Belief. And now, to blow up theſe *Scotch* Sparks to a Flame, *Cardinal Richelieu* ſent over his Chaplain, and another Gentleman, to heighten their Differences. And ſome time after, *viz.* the latter end of the Year, 1653. great Diſferences aroſe about Church-Matters in *England*, chiefly occaſioned by A. B. *Laud*'s ſtrict enjoyning many new Ceremonies, not formerly inſiſted on, and now vehemently oppoſed, by thoſe called *Puritans*, to whom adhered many of the Epiſcopal Party.

Several Gentlemen of Quality had refuſed to pay the Ship-Money; and among the reſt, Eſquire *Hambden* of *Bucks*; upon which the King refers the whole Buſineſs to the Twelve Judges, in *Michaelmas Term*, 1636. Ten of whom gave their Judgments againſt *Hambden*; but *Hutton* and *Cook* refuſed it.

The King, 1637. Iſſuing out a Proclamation in *Scotland*, Commanding the Uſe of the Liturgy, Surplice, Altar, *&c.* There occaſioned great Diſorders and Tumults among the Common People, who,

who, sometime after, with the Gentry, entred into a Solemn League and Covenant, to preserve the Religion then profest. The Covenant, the *Scots* were resolved to maintain; and to that purpose, they sent privately for General *Lesley*, and other great Officers from beyond Sea, providing themselves likewise with Arms, *&c.* After this, they Elect Commissioners for the general Assembly, whom they cite to move the Arch Bishops and Bishops to appear there, as guilty Persons, which being refused, the People present a Bill of Complaint against them, to the Presbitery at *Edenburg:* who accordingly warned them to appear at the next General Assembly. At their Meeting, the Bishops sent in a Protestation against their Assembly; which the Covenanters thought not fit to Read; And soon after, they abolished Episcopacy, and then prepared for a War.

On which, the King prepares an Army against them; with which, *Anno.* 1639. He Marches in Person into the North; but, by the Mediation of some Persons, a Treatise of Peace was begun, but soon broken off. The King therefore considers how to make Provisions for Men and Money; and calling a Secret Cabinet Council, consisting only of *Laud*, *Strafford*, and *Hamilton*; it was concluded, That for the King's Supply, a Parliament must be Called in *England*, and another in *Ireland*.

The *Scots* fore-seeing the Storm, prepared for their own Defence, making Treaties in *Sweden*, *Denmark*, *Holland*, and *Poland:* And the Jesuits, who are never Idle, endeavoured to Foment.

In the Year 1640. and the Sixteenth of the Kings Reign, a Parliament was Called, in which the King presses them for a speedy Supply, to Suppress (what he calls) the Violences of the *Scots*; but this Parliament not complying with the Kings de-

fire, were, by the advice of the *Juncto*, Dissolved, having only sate Twenty Two Days.

Laud, by his violent Proceedings against those called *Puritans*, and by his strict enjoyning of old, un-observed Ceremonies, which by many were thought *Popish*, procured to himself much Hatred from the generality of People; That upon *May* 9. 1640. a Paper was fixt on the *Royal Exchange*, inciting the Prentices to go and Sack his House at *Lambeth*, the *Monday* after; but the Arch-Bishop had notice of their Design, and provided accordingly; that at the time when they came, endeavouring to enter his House, they were repulsed.

The King calls a select Juncto to consult about the *Scots*, where the Earl of *Strafford* delivered his Mind, in such terms, as afterwards proved his ruine. War against them was resolved on, and Money was to be procured one way or other: The City was invited to Lend, but absolutely refused: Some of the Gentry contributed indifferent freely: So that with their assistance the Army was compleated, the King himself being *Generalissimo*, marches his Army into the North, where was some Action, in which the *Scots* had the better. A Treaty is then set on foot, and at last concluded; the chief Conditions for the calling a Parliament in *England*, who accordingly Met, *Nov.* 3. 1640. And the King, in his Speech, tells them, *That the* Scotish *Troubles were the cause of their Meeting; and therefore requires them to consider of the most expedient means for casting them out; and desired a Supply from them for maintaining of his Army.*

The Commons began with the Voting down all Monopolies; and all such Members as had any benefit by them, were voted out of the House: They then voted down Ship-Money, with the Opinion of the Judges thereupon, to be Illegal; and a charge

of

of High Treason was ordered to be drawn up against Eight of them, and they begun with the Keeper *Finch*, *Decemb.* 11. Alderman *Pennington*, and some Hundreds of Citizens, presented a Petition, subscribed by 15000 Hands, against Church Discipline and Ceremonies; and then the Commons Voted, *That the Clergy in a Convocation have no power to make Canons or Laws without Parliaments; and that the Canons are against the Fundamental Laws of the Realm, the King's Prerogative, and the Property of the Subject, the Right of Parliaments; and tend to Faction and Sedition.*

In pursuance hereof, a Charge was ordered to be drawn up against Arch-Bishop *Laud*, and others, and after voted Guilty of High Treason, and sent to the *Tower*.

The *Scots* likewise preferred a Charge against the Arch-Bishop, and the Earl of *Strafford*, requiring Justice against them both, as the great Incendiaries and Disturbers both of Church and State.

On *Monday*, *March* 25. 1640. the Earl of *Strafford*'s Tryal began in *Westminster Hall*, the King, Queen, and Prince, being present; and the Commons being there likewise as a Committee, at the managing their Accusation; the chief of whom was *Pym*. The Earl made a long defence, but the Commons were resolved to prosecute him to Death, and to proceed against him by Bill of Attainder, which they proceeded to dispatch. And upon the 25th. of *April*, they passed the Bill, and a few days after the Lords did likewise.

The Bill being finished, and the King willing to save the Earl, *May* 21. makes a Speech to both Houses in the Earl's behalf, and so Dismissed them to their great Discontent: Which was propagated so far, that *May* 23. were 1000. Citizens, most of them Armed, came thronging to *Westminster*, crying

out for Justice against the Earl of *Strafford*. On *Sunday* following the King consulted the Judges, and several Bishops.

Monday, *May* 10. The King gives Commission to several Lords to Pass Two Bills; One the Bill of Attainder against *Strafford*; the Other, for continuing the Parliament, during the Pleasure of Both Houses.

The next day the King writes a Letter to the House, to excuse his not Signing *Strafford*'s Execution. But the Commons would not be satisfied until the Bill was signed.

The Fall of this great Man, startled many other Officers of State, and occasioned the resigning their Places.

August 6. Both the *English* and *Scotch* Armies were Disbanded and Four Days after, the King went towards *Scotland*, and was entertained with great Demonstrations of Affection by that Nation, and conferred several Places of Honour and Power upon divers of them: He confirm'd likewise the Treaty between the Two Nations, by Act of Parliament.

Octob. 23. 1641. The Horrid and Notorious Massacre and Rebellion broke out in *Ireland*. At which time the *Irish*, to dishearten the *English* from any Resistance, asserted, *That the Queen was with their Army*, *That the King would come amongst them also and assist them*; *That they did but maintain his Cause against the Puritans*; *That they had the King's Commission for what they did*. Whether these Assertions were true or false, we shall not pretend to determine, but leave it to the Readers own Sentiments, only we beg leave to insert here, by way of Parenthesis, a Letter sent to the Pope, by order of *Charles* the II. when he had taken the Covenant, and was professing the Presbyterian Religion in *Scotland*; it was car-

carried thither, and preſſed forward by one *Dallie* an *Iriſh* Prieſt, and Confeſſor to the then Queen of *Portugal*, under the Title of *Propoſitions and Motives for, and on the behalf of the moſt invincible King of* Great Britain, France, *and* Ireland, *to Pope* Innocent *the X. in the Year of* Jubilee, 1650. which *Dallie*, taking *France* in his way, ſpake with the Queen Mother, and received her Directions for the better management of the Affair.

Moſt Bleſſed Father,

'OUR Agent, at preſent Reſiding at *Rome*, with all Humility, ſhews your Holineſs, That the 'principal Cauſe and Occaſion of that Regicide: 'Tyranically perpetrated upon the Perſon of *Charles* 'the Firſt, Father of the aforeſaid *Charles* the Second, by his Rebels, and cruel Subjects (the like 'whereof was never heard of from the beginning 'of the World, not only among Civil Nations, but 'even among the moſt Barbarous themſelves) 'have been the Graces, Favours, and Conceſſions, 'ſo often and ſo many ways extended to the *Catholick* Religion, and the Aſſerters and Profeſſors 'thereof, in the Kingdom both of *England* and *Ireland*. The Truth of which appears in that the 'aforeſaid *Charles* the Firſt gave Authority to the 'Marquiſs of *Ormond*, by ſeveral Commiſſions, for 'the Eſtabliſhing and Perfecting all Conditions with 'the Confederate Catholicks of the Kingdom of '*Ireland*, of ſufficient Security for the Catholick 'Faith. Furthermore, the ſaid *Charles* the Firſt, 'fearing leſt the ſaid *Ormond* (being an Heretick) 'ſhould not ſatisfie the ſaid Confederates in all 'things, He ſent thither the Marquiſs of *Worceſter*, 'a Man truly and wholly Catholick, with a more

'ample Commission; in which Commission, the 'said Marquis of *VVorcester*, had full Authority of 'concluding a Peace with the said Confederate Ca'tholicks, and of giving them Conditions altoge'ther satisfactory, as well concerning Liberty of 'Religion, as also as to other Injuries that had been 'done unto them; which the said Marquis of *VVor'cester*, making with them an absolute Peace, did 'abundantly fulfil.

'Further, This appeareth in that the said *Charles* 'the First, even in *England* it self, did by Commis'sions set the *Catholicks*, namely, the said Marquis 'of *VVorcester*, Sir *Arthur Ashton*, and many others, 'over his Armies; and made them Governours of 'Cities, Castles, and Strong Holds, notwithstanding 'the Clamour of the People against it; and which 'was not a slight motive of the Regicide committed 'upon him, whereby it appears, that although the 'said King *Charles* the First dyed not a Catholick, 'yet he died for them.

'Again (most Blessed Father!) the same Agent 'most humbly represents, That the present King 'Charles II. the true and undoubted Heir of the fore'said *Charles* I. and of all his Kingdoms (to whom 'the said Kingdoms belong of Right, according to 'that of *Christ*, *Give to* Cæsar *the thing*, *that are* Cæ'sars) while his Father yet lived, was known to 'have good and true Inclinations to the *Catholick* 'Faith, following which, and going on in his Fa'thers steps, he did not only recommend it to the 'Marquis of *Ormond*, but gave it him in Express 'Command to satisfie in all things the Confederate 'Catholicks in *Ireland*, namely, That he shou'd 'grant them the free Exercise of their Religion; 'That he should abrogate the Penal Laws made a'gainst them; and that he should restore to the said 'Catholicks, whether Laicks or Ecclesiasticks, their

'Lands,

'Lands, Estates, Possessions, or what other Rights 'did at any time belong unto them, and by the 'said Laws had been unjustly taken away. In O-'bedience to which Commands, the said Marquiss, 'in the Name, and by the Authority of the said 'two Kings, namely, *Charles* the First, and Second, 'made and concluded a firm Peace, with the said 'Confederate Catholicks: By the Conclusion of 'which Peace, the said present King and all his 'Dominions, hath involved himself with the Ca-'tholicks in an irreconcileable War against the 'Parliamentarian Regicides of *England*, whose Blood 'therefore, the said Cruel Tyrants insatiably thirst 'after, as they did after his Fathers.

'The said Agent further offers to your Holiness, 'That the inhumane Regicides do wickedly Usurp 'to themselves in the Dominions aforementioned, 'all the Authority of the King; do most cruelly 'Persecute all the Catholicks both in *England* and '*Ireland*, partly by condemning them to Banish-'ment; partly by putting them into Prisons, and 'otherwise corporally punishing them; and lastly, 'by putting them to Death, a Witness of the Truth 'hereof, is that great Slaughter made by *Cromwel* 'in the taking of the two Cities of *Drogheda* and '*Wexford*, and other Places, where all the Catho-'licks, without Distinction of either Sex or Age, 'were Slaughtered; Witness hereof, also the ra-'ging Persecution and Death of Catholicks in *Eng-'land*; by all which, and by their Parliamentarian 'Decrees themselves, and their Covenant with 'God (as they call it) it is evident, even beyond 'the clearness of the light of the shining Sun. That 'these Tyrannical Regicides do ultimately intend 'and put forth all their Power for the utter Destru-'ction of all Catholicks, and to extirpate by the 'Root, and wholly to extinguish the Catholick

'Faith

'Faith throughout the World, openly asserting and 'boasting with great Glory, that these things being 'once finished in those Dominions, they will then 'invade *France*, and after that run through *Germa-* 'ny, *Italy*, and all *Europe*, throwing down Kings 'and Monarchs, whose very Titles are most odious 'and abhorrent unto them: Briefly, they have no 'other thing in their Aim than these Two, Name- 'ly, The extirpation of the Catholick Religion, 'and the destruction of Monarchy. To which wick- 'ed Machination of theirs, forasmuch as it could 'never have any the least Hopes, that either the 'King or his Father should at any time in the least 'Assent, they have put the one to Death, and the 'other to Exile: And these Rebels now, with a 'nefarious boldness, have lately called themselves a 'Common-wealth.

'To meet with and prevent the infernal Endea- 'vours of such Rebels, our Agent most humbly 'offers to your Holiness, the following Proposi- 'tions.

1. 'That your Holiness would make an annual 'Supply out of your own Treasury, unto the said 'Charles the Second, of considerable Sums of Mo- 'ney, suitable to the maintaining the War against 'those Rebels, against God, the Church, and Mo- 'narchy.

2. 'That you would cause and compel the whole 'Beneficed Clergy in the World, of whatsoever Dig- 'nity, Degree, State and Conditions soever, to con- 'tribute the Third or the Fourth part of all their 'Fruits, Rents, Revenues, or Emoluments, to the 'said War, as being Universal and Catholick. And 'that the said Contribution may be paid every three 'Months, or otherwise, as shall seem most expedient 'to your Holyness.

3. 'That

3. 'That by your Apostolick Nuncio's, your 'Holyness would most instantly endeavour, with all 'Princes, Common-wealths, and Catholick States, 'that the said Princes, Common-wealths, and States, 'may be admonished in the Bowels of Jesus Christ, 'and induced to enter into, and conclude an Uni-'versal Peace, and that they will unitedly supply 'the said King. And that they will by no means 'acknowledge the said Regicides and Tyrants for a 'Common-wealth or State; nor enter into, or have 'any Commerce with them.

4. 'That by the said Nuncio's, or any other way, 'all, and every the Monarchs of all *Europe* may be 'timely admonished, and made sensible in this 'Cause; wherein, beside the detriment of the 'Faith, their own proper Interest is concerned: 'The foresaid Tyrants being Sworn Enemies tō all 'Monarchy, as they themselves do openly assert, 'both by Word and Writing; and to that end, 'both in *Germany*, *Spain*, *France*, *Poland*, &c. and 'in the very Dominions of the great *Turk*, they 'have raised dangerous Insurrections; being raised, 'they foment them, and to that purpose, they 'supply the Charge, and make large Contributions 'to it.

5. 'That yonr Holyness would Command, under 'pain of Excommunication, *Ipso facto*, all and sin-'gular Catholicks, that neither they, nor any of 'them, directly nor indirectly, by Land or by Sea, 'do serve them in Arms, or assist them by any Coun-'sel, or to help, to favour or supply them any way, 'under whatsoever pretext.

'Holy Father! the premised Remedies are time-'ly to be applied, by which the Catholick Faith, 'now exposed to extream and eminent Hazzard, 'may be conserved, and infinite number of Catho-'licks may be preserved from Destruction, Monar-

'chy

'cny may be eſtabliſhed, and the moſt invincible 'King of Great *Britain* reſtor'd to his Rights: All 'which things will bear your Holyneſs to Heaven 'with their Praiſes, whom God long conſerve in 'ſafety, *&c.*

'The Propoſitions and Motives aboveſaid (if oc-'caſion be) our Agent will more largely ſet forth, '*Viva voce.*

This Letter, as it ſeems to clear a great portion of Doubts and Suſpitions of *Charles* the Second's Integrity to the Proteſtant Religion; ſo it is a ſhrewd Argument, that all that gliſtered in this King and his Father, was not Gold. But I muſt beg the Readers Pardon for this long digreſſion.

The Lords Juſtices ſent Sir *H. Spotſwood* from *Dublin*, to the King then in *Scotland*, with an Account of all that happened. He diſpatched Sir *J. Stuart*, with Inſtructions to the Lords of the Privy Council in *Ireland*. He applied himſelf to the Parliament of *Scotland* (as being near) for their Aſſiſtance. And an Expreſs was ſent to the Parliament of *England*.

The King being returned out of *Scotland*, *December* 2*d*. Summoned both Houſes together, and tells them; That he had ſtaid in *Scotland* longer than he expected, yet not fruitleſsly; for he had given full Satisfaction to the Nation; but cannot chuſe but take Notice of, and wonder at the unexpected Diſtractions he finds at Home; and then Commends to them the State of *Ireland*.

After which, the Commons ordered a Select Committee to draw up a Petition and Remonſtrance to the King. The one was againſt Biſhops, and Oppreſſures in Church Government; and for Puniſhing the Authors of it. And the other contained all the Miſcarriages and Misfortunes, ſince the beginning of the King's Reign. Not

Not long after happened the Tumults of the *London* Apprentices at *Whitehall*, and *Weſtminſter*.

December 28. The King ſends a Meſſage to the Lords, That he would raiſe Ten Thouſand Voluntiers for *Ireland*, provided the Commons would pay them.

Some time after, the King upon Information, that the Lord *Kimbolton*, and five of the Houſe of Commons, *viz. Hollis*, Sir *A. Haſlerig*, Mr. *Pym*, *Hambden*, and *Stroud*, had Correſpondence with the *Scots*, and Countenanced the late City Tumults; He thereupon ordered their Trunks, Studies and Chambers to be Sealed up, and their Perſons ſeized; the former of which was done, but they having timely Notice, they went aſide: Upon which, the Commons, the ſame day, Voted high againſt theſe Actions of the King. Hereupon the King Charges *Kimbolton*, and the five Members, with ſeveral Articles, and acquaints both Houſes, That he did intend to Proſecute them for High Treaſon, and required that their Perſons might be ſecured: And the next day, the King, attended with his Guard of Penſioners, and ſome Hundreds of Gentleman, went to the Houſe of Commons; and the Guard ſtaying without, the King with the Palſgrave, entred the Houſe; at whoſe Entrance, the Speaker riſes out of the Chair; aud the King ſitting down therein, views the Houſes round, and perceives the Birds he aimed at were flown; whereupon He tells them, That he came to look for thoſe five Members, whom he had Accuſed of High Treaſon, and was reſolved to have them, where ever He found them; and expected to have them ſent to Him as ſoon as they ſhould come to the Houſe; but would not have them think, that this Act of His was any Violation of Parliament.

This Act of the King was highly Resented by the House, that the next day, *January* 5. the Commons Voted it a Breach of Priviledge: And it it was said in the City, that the King intended Violence against the House of Commons, and came thither with Force to Murther several Members, and used threatning Speeches against the Parliament.

The next day the *Londoners* came thronging to *Westminster* with Petitions, envying bitterly against some of the Peers; but especially the Bishops, as the Authors of all these Disturbances: Upon which they were so affrighted, that Twelve Bishops absented themselves from the House of Lords, drawing up a Protestation against all Laws, Orders, Votes, Resolutions, and Determinations, as in themselves Null, and of none Effect, which had Passed, or should Pass, during their Absence. Presently after which, at a Conference between both Houses, it was agreed, That this Protestation of the Twelve Bishops did extend to the deep Intrenching on the Fundamental Priviledges, and Being of Parliaments: And, in a short time, they were Accused of High Treason, Seised, and brought on their Knees at the Lord's Bar: Ten of whom were Comitted to the *Tower*; and the other Two, in regard of their Age, to the *Black-Rod*.

And now such Numbers of ordinary People, daily gathered about *Westminster* and *White-Hall*, that the King (fearing their Intentions) thought fit to withdraw to *Hampton-Court*. The next day, the Five Members were Triumphantly guarded to *Westminster* by a great number of Citizens and Sea-men, with Hundreds of Boats and Barques. About this time the Parliament had notice, that the Lord *Digby*, and Coll. *Lunsford*, were raising Troops of Horse at *Kingston*, where the Country

Magazine

Magazine was lodged: Whereupon they Order, That the Country Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and the Trained Bands, shall take care to Secure the Countries and their Magazines. *Lunsford* was Seised, and sent to the *Tower*, but *Digby* escaped beyond Sea.

The King removed to *Royston*, and *January* 20. He sends a Message to the Parliament, proposing the Security of his own Rights and Prerogative; and as to matter of their Grievances, He would equal, or exceed the most Indulgent Princes in Compliance with them.

After this, the House of Commons importune the King to put the Militia and Command of the *Tower* into their Hands, as the only available Means, for the removal of their Fears and Jealousies. But the King not willing to Comply with their desire, signified to them, that He thought the Militia to be lawfully subject to no Command but his own; and therefore would not let it go out of his Hands, it being derived to Him from his Ancestors, by the Fundamental Laws of the Kingdom.

The King being now at *Hampton-Court*, sent for the Earl of *Essex* and *Holland*, and other Members of both Houses, that were his Domesticks, but they refused to come. In the mean time, Mr. *Pym*, at a Conference, complaining of the general flocking of *Papists* into *Ireland*, affirmed, That since the Lieutenant had ordered a stop upon the Ports, against all *Irish Papists*, many of the chief Commanders now at the Head of the Rebels, had been Licensed to pass thither by the King's immediate Warrant. The King was highly offended at this Speech, which he signified to the House, who, in their Answer to his Message, justifie Mr. *Pym*'s words to be the sence of the House; and that

they had yet in safe Custody, the Lord *Delvin*, Sir *G. Hamilton*, Collonel *Butler*, and Mr. *Nettervil*: To which the King replys, That the afore-mentioned Persons had their Passages granted before He knew of the Parliaments Order of Restraint; therefore expected their Declaration for his Vindication from that odious Calumny of Conniving, or under-hand Favouring that horrid Rebellion.

But the King's Desire proved fruitless; for they next moved to have Sir *J. Byron* turned out from being Lieutenant of the *Tower*; and, at their nomination, Sir *J. Coniers* succeeded.

They then proceed to Name fit Persons for Trust of the Militia of the several Counties, particularly that for the Defence of the City of *London*, the *Parliament*, the *Tower*, to be Commanded by Major General *Skipton*.

The King had deferred His Answer to their Petition, for settling the Militia of the Counties, according to the Nomination, till his Return from *Dover*, where he took leave of his Wife and Daughter, and so returned to *Greenwich*; where he being Arrived, sends his Answer to the Petition about the Militia; That He was willing to diveſt Himself of the Power of the County Militia for a limited time, but not of *London*, and other Cities and Corporations. This Answer did not in the least satisfie; so that the Breach growing every day wider, the King declined these Parts, and the Parliament, and moved to *Theobald's*.

About the beginning of *March*, He receives a Petition from the Parliament; wherein they require the Militia more fervently than before; affirming, That in ease of denial, the eminent dangers would constrain them to dispose of it by the Authority of Parliament; desiring also, That He would make his Abode near *London*, and the Parliament, for the better

better carrying on of Affairs, and preventing the Peoples Jealousies and Fears. All which being refused, they presently order, That the Nation be put into a posture of Defence, in such a way as was agreed upon by Parliament, and a Committee to prepare a publick Declaration from these Heads.

1. The just Causes of the Fears and Jealousies given to the Parliament; at the same time clearing themselves from any Jealousies conceived against Himself.

2. To consider of all Matters arising from His Majesties Message, and what was fit to be done.

And now began our Troubles, and all the Miseries of a Civil War: The Parliament every day entertaining new Jealousies and Suspitions of the King's Actions; They now proceed on a sudden, to make great Preparations both by Sea and Land: And the Earl of *Northumberland*, Admiral of *England*, is commanded to Rig the Kings Ships, and fit them for Sea: And likewise all Masters and Owners of Ships were perswaded to do the like. The Beacons were prepared, Sea-marks set up, and extraordinary Postings up and down with *Pacquets*: All sad Prognosticks of the Calamities ensuing.

August 22. 1642. The King comes to *Nottingham*, and there erects his Standard: to which, some Numbers resorted, but far shot of what was expected. And three days after, the King sends a Message to the Parliament, to propose a Treaty, which was accepted, but quickly broke off again.

The War being now begun, the New raised Soldiers committed many Outrages upon the Country People, which both King and Parliament, upon complaint, began to Rectifie. The King himself was now *Generalissimo* over his own, and the Earl of *Essex* for the Parliament: The King's

Forces received the first Repulse at *Hull*, by Sir *J. Hotham*, and Sir *J. Meldram*, and the King takes up his Quarters at *Shrewsbury: Portsmouth* was next Surrendered to the Parliament; and presently after, Sir *J. Biron* takes *Worcester* for the King. In *September*, the two Princes *Palatines*, *Rupert* and *Maurice* Arrived in *England*, who were presently Entertained, and put into Command by the King.

This uncivil Civil-War was carried on in general with all the Ruines and Desolations immaginable, wherein all Bonds of Religion, Alliance, and Friendship were utterly destroyed: Wherein Fathers and Children, Kindred and Acquaintances, became unnatural Enemies to each other. In which miserable Condition this Nation continued for near Four Years, *viz.* From *August* the 22. 1642. (the time the King set up his Standrrd at *Nottingham*) to *May* the 6. 1646. (the time when the King, quitting all Hopes, put himself into the Protection of the *Scotch* Army at *Newark*.) During this Process of time, several Messages past, divers Treaties set on Foot, and other Overtures of Accommodation, but all came to no effect.

The War in *England* being now (after so much Bloodshed and Ruine) brought to some end, the Parliament were at leisure to dispute with the *Scots*, concerning the keeping of the King; who, fearing least *Fairfax* should fall upon them, and compel them to deliver him up, Retreated further *Northwards*, towards *New-Castle*. The Parliament sent an Invitation to the Prince of *Wales*, to come to *London*, with Promise of Honour and Safety; but he did not think fit to venture. The King sends from *New-Castle* to the Army, about a Treaty; and the House of Commons Vote, That the Kings Person should be demanded of the *Scots*, and that their whole

whole Army return home, upon Receipt of part of their Arrears, the reſt to be ſent after them. And a Committee is appointed to Treat with the *Scotch* Commiſſioners, about drawing up Propoſitions to be ſent to the King; wherein much time was ſpent in wrangling, whilſt the *Engliſh* deny the *Scots* to have any Right in the Diſpoſal of the King of *England*; and the *Scots* as ſtifly alledged, He was their King, as much as of the *Engliſh*; and they had as good Right to diſpoſe of the King in *England*, as the *Engliſh* could Challenge in *Scotland*: But at laſt they agreed on Sixteen General Propoſitions, which were preſented to the King at *New-Caſtle*, *July* 27. 1646. But theſe Propoſitions were ſuch that the King did not think fit to comply withal.

The *Scots* general Aſſembly ſent a Remonſtrance to the King, deſiring him to ſettle Matters in *England*, according to the Covenants, *&c.* But all this did not do; and therefore the *Scots*, who had hitherto ſo ſharply diſputed about the Diſpoſal of the Kings Perſon, are content, upon the Receipt of Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds to depart home, and leave the King in the Power of the Parliament, who Voted him to *Holmby-Houſe*, and ſent their Commiſſioners to receive him from the *Scots* at *New-Caſtle*; to whom *Feb.* 8. 1646. He was accordingly delivered; and the *Scots* returned home.

Some Petitions from *Eſſex*, and other Places, are preſented to the Parliament, inveighing againſt the Proceedings of the Army, which much vexed the Soldiers, who ſharply Apologize for themſelves.

And now the Army, to the great Terror of the Parliament, march towards *London*, and came as far as St. *Alban*'s, notwithſtanding a Meſſage from Both Houſes, not to come within Twenty Five Miles of the City; which the General excuſed, ſaying, That

he Army was come thither before they received the Parliaments Desire; And here he obtains a Months Pay. The Parliament then drew up Propositions of Peace to be sent to the King at *Hampton-Court*; the same in substance with those offered at *New Castle*, and had the like effect. The Business of Episcopacy being always the main Objection, which the Parliament were resolved to Abolish: And the King preferring that before all other Respects, would rather loose All, than consent thereunto.

The *Scots* Commissioners send a Letter, *Novemb.* 6. 1647. to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and require, That the King may be admitted to a Personal Treaty; or at least, That he should not be carried from *Hampton-Court* violently, but that Commissioners of both Parliaments may freely pass to and from Him to Treat for the Settlement of the Kingdom. After which, divers Messages past between the King and the Parliament, and several Conferrences were set on Foot, particularly that of *Henderson*'s; but they proving fruitless, the Parliament, with most of the Officers of the Army that joyned with them, brought the King to a Tryal, by a Judicature of their own setting up, which proved his Ruine.

THE

THE SECRET HISTORY OF King *CHARLES* II.

WHEN *Charles* the Second was restored to the Thrones of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, never any Monarch in the World came to the Possession of so large a Dominion with more Advantages to have done good for Himself, to his Subjects at Home, and to his Allies Abroad: The People all experienced in Martial Discipline, as having but newly sheathed the Sword of Civil War, and Foreign Conquest; so that their Valour was dreaded abroad, where-ever he should have menaced an Enlargement of his Territories: Besides all this, he had the Love of his Subjects, Equal, if not Superior, to any Prince that ever Reigned before him: And he had the Affection of his Parliament to the highest degree.

But

But after all this, he was no sooner settled in his Throne, but through the Influence of Evil Counsellors, upon a Disposition naturally Vitious, and easily corrupted with Effeminate Pleasures; he abandoned himself to all manner of Softness, and Voluptuous Enjoyments, and harbouring in his Bosome the worst of Vices, base ingratitude, betrayed Himself, that he might betray his People; for where the Constitution of a Nation is such, That the Laws of the Land are the Measures both of the Soveraign's Commands, and the Obedience of the Subjects; whereby it is provided, That as the one is not to invade, what by Concessions and Stipulations is granted to the Ruler, so the other is not to deprive them of their lawful and determined Rights and Liberties: There the Prince who strives to Subvert the Fundamental Laws of the Society is the Traytor and the Rebel, and not the People, who endeavour to Preserve and Defend their own. Nor must we ascribe the Miscarriages of his Reign altogether to the Remissness of his Nature, but to a Principle of Revenge, which his Mother had infused into him, not so much for the loss of her Husband, but out of her inbred Malice to the *Protestant* Religion, which no where flourished in that Splendor, as in *England*, fostered and cherished by the vow'd Enemy of this Nation, his Brother, the Duke of *York*, who had been openly heard to declare in his Bed-Chamber at St. *James*'s, That he was resolved to be revenged upon the *English* Nation for the Death of his Father; and what an Ascendant this Brother had over over him, the whole Kingdom has felt by sad and woful Experience: For indeed the King had all along an Affection for him; so entire, and baneful to the Nation, that he could only be said to Reign, while his Brother Ruled. With all these Royal Vertues, and imbred

and

and fomented Animosities, to render him at his Return a Gracious Soveraign to this Kingdom, let us trace him from his Cradle to find out those *Princely* Endowments, which invisibly encreasing with him as he grew in Years, dazzled in such a manner the Eyes of doting *Politicians* of that Age, to recal him against that known and vulgar Maxim of *Common Prudence*.

——— Regnabit sanguine multo
Ad Regnum quisquis unit ab ilio.

When he was but very young, he had a very strange and unaccountable Fondness to a Wooden Billet, without which in his Arms he would never go abroad, nor lie down in his Bed: From which the more observing sort of People gathered, that when he came to years of Maturity, either Oppressors and Blockheads would be his greatest Favourites; or else, that when he came to Reign, he would either be like *Jupiter*'s Log, for every Body to deride and contemn; or that he would rather chuse to command his People with a Club, than Rule them with a Scepter. And indeed, They that made the first and last conjectures, found in due time they were not altogether in the wrong. For the Throne was no sooner empty by the Death of his Father, before he could be permitted to seat himself in it, but he gave the World a plain Discovery what sort of People they were; who, when he came to Reign, were most likely to have the principal Room in his Favour and Trust, and by whose Assistance he was in hopes to Tyrannize over his *English* and *Scotch* Subjects, particularly those of the latter.

For when the *Parliament* of *Scotland* sent for him; as he was then Cruising about *Guernsey*, to treat

treat about receiving him to be their King, he would not so much as transact with them, till he had first sent into *Ireland*, to assure himself, whether those Rebels, who had murthered no less than Two Hundred Thousand *Protestants*, were in a Condition or no for him to cast himself upon their Assistance. But those hopes failing, in regard they were in a fair way to be subdued themselves, he was at length inclined to entertain the Overture made him by the *Scots*. And yet even then was his Mind so full fraught with the thoughts of Despotical Dominion, and purposes of introducing Popery into his Territories; that had it not been for the Prince of *Orange*, he would never have complyed with the Terms which the *Scots* had ordered to propose, though no other than what were necessary for the Security of the Lives, Liberties, Laws, and Religion of his *People*. And how he employed his Wooden Bills afterwards, may easily be understood by his many Acts of Barbarous Tyranny over those poor *People*.

This *Prince* began early in Hypocrisie, and Breach of *Promise*: For the Confirmation of which, to be a certain Truth, there needs no more than to lay the Foundation of the *Proof* upon his own Words, and solemn Engagements. For in the King's Letter to the Speaker of the House of Commons, just before his Restauration, he has these Words:

'We assure you upon our Royal Word, That 'none of our *Predecessors* have had a greater E'steem for *Parliaments* than We have, as well in 'Our Judgment, as from our Obligation. We do 'believe them to be so Vital a part of the Consti'tution of the Kingdom, and so necessary for the 'Government of it, that We well know, neither

'Prince

'Prince nor People can be in any tollerable de-
'gree happy without them; and therefore you
'may be confident, That We shall always look
'upon their Counsels as the best We can receive,
'and shall be as tender of their Peiviledges, and
'as careful to Preserve and Protect them, as of
'that which is most near to Our self, and most
'necessary for Our own Preservation.

This in part demonstrates his Prevarication with Man. Now for his Prevarication with Heaven, we must produce another Paragraph of the same Letter, wherein he uses these flattering Expressions.

'If you desire the Advancement and Propaga-
'tion of the *Protestant* Religion, We have, by
'Our constant Profession of it, given sufficient Te-
'stimony to the World, That neither the Unkind-
'ness of those of the same Faith towards Us, nor
'the Civilities and Obligations from those of a
'contrary profession, could in the least startle Us,
'or make Us swerve from it; and nothing can be
'proposed to manifest Our Zeal and Affection for
'it, to which We will not readily assent. And
'we hope, in due time, Our self to propose some-
'thing to you for the Propagation of it, that will
'satisfie the World, that We have always made it
'both Our Care and Study, and have enough
'observed, what is most like to bring Disadvan-
'tage to it.

Now, as for his Veneration of Parliaments, or his Zeal for the *Reformed*, or truly any Religion, the Succeeding transactions of his Reign, which are to be related, will plainly make it appear how far those words were from his Heart, when dictated by his Lips.

To shew that this Prince was a great Lover of Comedies and Enterludes, and could act his part with

with e're a *Moon* or *Lacy* of them all, there is a Story muſt not be omitted, which may ſerve to light us into the occaſion, how he came to gain the addition of *Pious*: Otherwiſe, as it is impoſſible for us to give any Account why *Virgil* ſo often gives the Epithet of Pious to his Hero *Æneas*, after he had ſo diſhonourably cheated, and broke his Faith with Queen *Dido*; ſo it is as little to be expected, that we ſhould afford a reaſon why *Charles* the Second ſhould be ſo univerſally dignified with the name of Pious, after ſuch a prank of Hypocriſie as we are going to relate. This Story is this.

While he lay at *Breda*, daily expecting the *Engliſh* Navy for his Tranſportation; the Diſſenting Party fearing the worſt, thought it but reaſonable to ſend a ſelect number of moſt eminent Divines, to wait upan his Majeſty in *Holland*, in order to get the moſt advantageous Promiſes from him they could for the Liberty of their Conſciences. Of the number of theſe Divines, Mr. *Caſe* was one, who, with the reſt of his Brethren, coming where the King lay, and deſiring to be admitted into the King's Preſence, were carried up into the Chamber, next (or very near) the King's Cloſet, but told withal, That the King was buſie at his Devotions, and that till he had done they muſt be contented to ſtay. Being thus left alone (by contrivance no doubt) and hearing a ſound of groaning Piety, ſuch was the curioſity of Mr. *Caſe*, that he would needs go and lay his Ear to the Cloſet Door: But Heavens! How was the good old Man raviſh'd, to hear the Pious Ejaculations that fell from the King's Lips. —— *Lord, Since thou haſt pleas'd to reſtore me to the Throne of my Anceſtors, grant me a Heart conſtant in the Exerciſe and Profeſſion of Thy true* Proteſtant *Religion.* —— *Never in-*

1

I seek the Oppression of those, who out of his tenderness of their Consciences, are not free to conform to outward and indifferent Ceremonies. With a great deal more of the same Cant; which Mr. *Case* having over-heard, full of Joy and Transport returning to his Brethren, with Hands and Eyes to Heaven up-lifted, fell a Congratulating the Happiness of Three Nations, over which the Lord had now placed a Saint of *Paradice* for their Prince. After which, the King coming out of the Closet, the deluded Ministers were to Prostitute themselves at his Feet; and then it was that the King gave them those Promises of his Favour and Indulgence, which how well he after performed, they felt to their Sorrow.

Soon after he arrived into *England*, where he was received with all the Pomp, Splendor, and Joy that a Nation could express; but then, as if he had left all his Piety behind him in *Holland*, care was taken against the very first Night, that his Sacred was to lie at *White-Hall*, to have the Lady *Castlemain* seduced from her Loyalty to her Husband, and enticed into the Arms of the happily restored Prince.

Thus, from the first hour of his Arrival into these Kingdoms, he sat himself too much by his own Perswasion and Influence, to withdraw both Men and Women from the Laws of Nature and Morality, and to Pollute and Infect the *People* with Debauchery and Wickedness. He that ought to have shown like the *North-Star* in the Firmament of Royalty, to direct his *Subjects* in the *Paths* of Vertue, was the Sovereign *Ignis fatuus* to misguide them into all the Snares of Ruine and *Perdition*: Execrable Oathes were the chief Court-Acknowledgments of a Deity, Fornications and Adulteries the *Principal* Tests of the *Peoples* Loyalty and Obedience.

Certain it is, That the Kingdom was never in a better Posture for the King to work upon it, than at the time of his return into *England*: For such were the Contests for Superiority, among those who had taken upon them the Government, after the Death of *Oliver*; such the Confusions and Disorders that from thence arose, that no body could probably see where would be the end of the general Distraction, unless it were by reducing all things to their primitive Condition, under a Prince whose Title was so fair to the Crown: For which all Parties were the more inflamed, by the King's reiterated Oathes, Promises and Declarations to those of the Church of *England*, to maintain the Protestant Religion; to the Dissenters, That he would Indulge their Tender Consciences with all the Liberty they could rationally desire. And so infatuated they were with these Ingratiating Wheedles, that should all that knew him beyond-Sea, both at *Colen* and in *Flanders*, have spoken their Discoveries with the Voices of Angels, nay, should the Letter which he Wrote with his own Hand in the Year Sixty Two, to the Pope, have been shewn them in Capital Letters, they would have been all looked upon but as Fictious, and Inventions to obstruct the Happiness of the Nation.

The King was not ignorant, that (in order to bring his intended Designs about) he was furnished already with a Stock of Gentlemen, who being forced to share the misfortunes of his Exiles, and consequently no less imbitteted against those whom they looked upon as their Oppressors, he had moulded many of them to his own Religion and Interest, by Corrupting them in their Banishment with them; insomuch, that a certain Gentleman offered to prove, one day in the Pensionary House of Commons, That of all the Persons (yet

Persons

Persons of all Ranks and Qualities) who sojourned with the King Abroad, there were scarce any then alive, except Prince *Rupert*, Lord *M.* and Mr. *H. Coventry*, who had not been prevailed upon by His Majesty to——— Nor could, their being restored to their Estates at his Return, separate them from their Master's Interest; for that, besides the future expectations, with which the King continually fed them, they had bound themselves by all the Oaths and Promises that could be expected from them, to assist and co-operate with him in all his Designs, though they were dispensed with from appearing bare-fac'd. So soon therefore as the Parliament that gave him Admittance into the the Kingdom was Dissolved, the King call another, the first of his own Calling; and so ordered the matter, that the greatest part of the Masked Revolters got in among the real *Protestants:* By which means, all things went Trim and Trixy on the King's side. They restored him the Militia, which the Long Parliament took from his Father: They Sacrificed the Treasure of the Nation to his Profuseness and Prodigality: They offered up the Rights and Liberties of the People, by advancing his Prerogative; and what was most conducing to the King's P. Designs, they made him by private Instructions, those Penal Statutes which divided the Two prevailing *Protestant* Parties, and set them together by the Ears, by Arming one Party of the *Protestants* against the rest; such a dark advantage to the *Papists*, and upon the obtaining of which, he set so high a value, that neither the necessity of his Affairs at any time afterwards, nor the Application and Interposure of several Parliaments for removing the Grounds of our Differences and Animosities, by an Indulgence to be past into Law, could prevail upon him to forego the

Advantages he had got of keeping the *Proteſtants* at mutual Enemy one with another, and making them uſeful to his own Deſigns.

Nor was this all, But that he might carry on his *Popiſh* Deſigns the more ſafely and covertly, under the curſed Maſque of Hypocriſie, he procured the paſſing of an Act in his Penſionary Parliament, 1662. whereby it was made Forfeiture of Eſtate, and Impriſonment, for any to ſay, *The King was a Papiſt*, or *An Introducer to Popery*. Nevertheleſs, notwithſtanding he was thus become a *Proteſtant* by the Law of the Land, to repeat how he exerted the Power given him by the Parliament, how he Perſecuted and Proſecuted the *Proteſtant* Nonconformiſts throughout the Kingdom; how he cauſed to be Excommunicated, Impriſoned, and Harraſed, when not a *Papiſt* in the Three Kingdoms was ſo much as Troubled or Molefted, is a thing that would be altogether needleſs, as being ſo well known to the World.

I had almoſt forgot another great kindneſs which the Parliament did him, which was at the private Inſtance of the King, to Abrogate the Trienial Act, by which the Sitting of a Parliament once in Three Years, was infallibly ſecured to the Kingdom. So well did this Monarch know where the Shoe pinched him; and ſo crafty was he to take his Advantage from the *Delirium* and *Frenſie*, the Nation was in upon his Reſtoration, to obtain the repealing of the Principal Laws, by which his wrigling into Arbitrary Government would have often been curbed and reſtrained.

But whether it were that the prodigall Zeal of thoſe Members began to cool, conſcious, perhaps that they had already opened too large a Gap

to

to Tyrannous Invasion upon the Liberties of the People, which they had so Treacherously laid at the King's Mercy; or whether it were that the King resolved to quicken his to Arbitrary Rule, to the end he might see *Popery* flourish in his own days; certain it is, that the next attempt was to make Parliaments themselves the Ministers and Instruments of his own *Popish* Ambition, and our Slavery. In order hereunto, He falls a Buying and Purchasing at certain and Annual Rates, the Vote of the Members, at what time the greatness of the Number of those that stood ready for Sale (as well as their Indigencies and Lusts) made the Price, at which they were to be bought so much the easier. Now, being thus hired by His Majesty, with their own free Offerings of the Nations Money: How many Bills did they pass into Acts for Enslaving and Ruining a Third part of the Kingdom, under the Notion of Phanaticks and Dissenters? And all this, in graritude of their Sallaries, and to accomplish the Will and Pleasure of their Lord and Master, the King, whose Bought and Purchas'd Vassals and Slaves they were? All this while, what can we say or think other, but that the Purchaser as well as the Sellers were guilty of betraying the People, who had intrusted them? And then to make a President by Law for Tyranny, these Hirelings empowered the Justices of the Peace to disseize Men of their Estates, without being Convicted and found Guilty by Legal Juries, of the Transgressions whereof they stood Accused: By which they not only overthrew all the Commons, and Statute Law of the Land, but they Subverted and altered the Fundamental Constitution, in making *English* Men liable to be turned at the Arbitrary Pleasure of the King. And as an addi-

tion to this, those Mercinary Members, by the Orders and Directions of their most Pious and *Protestant* Pay-Master the King, past another Law, which was styled, *The Act for Corporations*; by which Men of Principles and Integrity were debarred all Offices of Magistracy in Cities and Corporate Towns; the woful effects of which, the Kingdom, not long after, both saw and felt, in the Surrender of Charters, and Betraying of Franchises, by Persons upon whom the Government of the Corporations came to be delivered by Vertue of that Act, which excluded so many Honest, Able, and Vertuous Men, the Persons whom the King for his by-ends, nominated for fit and Loyal Men, would never have risen above the Offices of Scavengers, Headboroughs, or Constables at the highest.

To this, as mainly contributed to the King's Design of Enslaving us, we may subjoyn their passing an Act, whereby they did both limit and confine those that were to present Petitions to the King, not to exceed Ten Persons. Let the Matter to be represented be ne're so Important, or the Grievance to be redress'd never so Illegal or Oppressive, yet it was made no less than a Riot, if above Ten Persons Address'd themselves to the King to crave the benefit of the Law: A Trouble which the King carefully provided against, knowing how many Laws he had to break, and how Burthensome and Oppressive he must be to the People, before he could compleat the Fabrick of *Slavery* and *Popery*, which he was Erecting.

Nor was this all, For the King being Conscious of his own failing, and finding that through his own Wastefulness, and the Importunities of his consuming Misses, he could not depend on any definite Summ for accomplishing his Promises to his

his Holy Father, the Pope, and his Truſty Confederate the *French* King, got Two Bills prepared, and carried into the Houſe, the paſſing of which, had compleated the Nations Miſery, and made him Abſolute. The one was, *To Empower His Majeſty upon extraordinary Occaſions* (of which he would not have failed to have been the Judge as often as he pleaſed) *to raiſe Money without a Parliament:* And the other was, *For ſettling an Univerſal Exciſe upon the Crown.* The Paſſing either of which, the King well knew would have been ſoon enabled him to have Govern'd by *Baſha*'s and *Janizaries*, and redeem'd him from having any further need of Parliaments.

But what the King had ſo finely projected to enſlave the Nation, and obtain whatever he had a mind to, prov'd the Ground of their Diſappointment, and the occaſion of the Nations eſcape from the ſnare that was laid for it: For the Mercenary Members fore-ſeeing, That the paſſing theſe Bills would have put an end to theſe Penſions, by rendring them uſeleſs for the time to come, conſulting their Gain, and preferring it above what the Court called their Loyalty, fell in with the honeſt Party, and ſo became aſſiſtant in throwing out the Bills.

However, Pious *Æneas* finding the Nation grew ſenſible of his covert Intentions, and Encroachments upon their Laws and Liberties, and deſparing of getting any more Acts paſſed in Parliament, toward the promoting his Deſings, reſolved to Husband the Laws he had already obtain'd, as much as he could, to the Ruin of the Nation; and where they failed of being Serviceable to his Ends, to betake himſelf to other Methods and Means: And therefore, beſides the daily Impoveriſhing, Confining, and deſtroying of infinite numbers of Honeſt

Honeſt and Peaceable People: Under pretence of Executing the Laws, he made it his buſineſs to invent new Projects to tear up the Rights and Liberties of the People, by ways and means which had not the leaſt ſhadow of a Law to countenance them.

Having made this fair Progreſs towards the enſlaving both the Souls and Bodies of his own Subjects at home, let us take a view of his Zeal to the *Proteſtant* Religion abroad. And firſt for the *Proteſtants* of *France*: When *Monſieur Rohan* came into *England* to acquaint his Pious *Majeſty* with the Reſolutions taken at *Paris* to perſecute, and if poſſible, to root out the Reformed in *France*, and propoſed Overtures to the King, as would have been greatly for his Glory and Intereſt, yet no way contrary to the Allegiance of that poor People, he remitted the Monſieur to his Brother, the D. of *York*, who not only inform'd the *French* Ambaſſador of the Gentleman's Errand, but placed him behind the Hangings, to hear what Monſieur *Rohan* had to repreſent and propoſe to him. Which, although the Ambaſſador to could not but abhor in the Two Brothers, and was aſham'd of in himſelf, yet he could do no leſs than inform his Maſter of what he had ſeen and heard. Upon which, the poor Gentleman, on his Return out of *England*, was ſo narrowly watched, that being Apprehended upon the Borders of *Switzerland*, he was carried back to *Paris*, and there broken upon the Wheel.

Nor did it ſatisfie the King and his dear Brother the Duke, to have thus Betray'd, as well as Abandoned the *Proteſtants* in *France*; but with the utmoſt Malice that *Popery* could inſpire into them, they ſought the Deſtruction of the Seven United Provinces, upon no other Account, but

their

their being *Proteſtant States*, and for giving Shelter to thoſe who being Perſecuted by himſelf and his Confederate (the *French* Tyrant) for their Religion, fled thither for Protection and Safety: For knowing what in due time they intended to bring upon the *Proteſtants* at home, they thought it moſt requiſite to deſtroy thoſe *Proteſtant States* in the firſt place, that there might remain no Sanctuary for their Perſecuted Subjects: And indeed, abating this, and one more Ground of their Quarrel with thoſe *States*; never was a War undertaken upon more frivilous Pretences, than thoſe Two which the King engaged in againſt the Seven Provinces, in the Year 1667. and 1672. Nor can any thing juſtifie the Diſcretion and Wiſdom of the Wars, had they not been undertaken meerly in Subſerviency to the promoting *Popery* and *Slavery*; ſeeing, that upon all other Grounds that Reaſon and Prudence can ſuggeſt, it was the Intereſt of *England*, as ſtill it is, to preſerve the Government of *Holland* entire. Nor can we have a true Account of the Grounds, upon which the Two Monarchs of *England* and *France* agreed the War againſt *Holland*, in the Year 1672. than by the Repreſentation which the *French* Ambaſſador made of it both at *Rome* and *Vienna*. For tho' his Publick Declaration pretended no more, but that it was to *ſeek Reparation* for the Diminution of his Glory; yet the Account he gave to the *Pope* of his Maſters, and conſequently of our *Proteſtant* Monarch, his firſt Confederate, undertaking that War, was, That he did it in order to the extirpation of Hereſie: And in the ſame manner they ſought to juſtifie the Piety of that Enterprize to his Imperial Majeſty, by alledging, That the *Hollanders* were a People that had forſaken *God*, and were Hereticks, and that all good Chriſtians were bound

bound to Associate and Unite for their Extirpation. Upon which Account it seems, our King and the Duke thought fit to exchange the Appellation of of *Good Protestants* for that of *Good Christians*. However, from hence it was plain, what sort of *Good Christians* they were, since it was evident, that their Uniting with *France* in that War, was to destroy the *Protestant Dutch* Hereticks.

These being the real Grounds and Motives that induced the King of *England* to begin that Impolitick War against the *Dutch*, in the year 1665. whatever was openly and publickly pretended. How strangely was the Parliament deluded and blinded by the King's Oaths, and Protestations of his Zeal for the Protestant Religion? What Sums of the Subjects Money they gave this Monarch, to defray the Expences of that unnecessary and baneful War, is too well known; and yet after all, saving one brisk Engagement ill manag'd, tho' with some loss to the *Dutch*, at length no Fleet was set out, and the choicest of their Royal Navy either Burnt, or taken in Harbour to save Charges. And though the *French* at length joyn'd themselves in assistance with the *Dutch* against us, yet, by the Credit he had with the Queen-Mother, he so far imposed upon, that upon assurance, which no Man of Prudence and Foresight would have believed, That the *Dutch* would have no Fleet at Sea that Year, he forbore to make ready, and so incurred that ignominious Disgrace at *Chatham*: the like, to which the *English* never suffered since they claim'd the Dominion of the Sea.

And now we come to the best Act that ever he did in his Life, had he pursued it; which shewed how happy a Prince he might have been, had he been ever faithful to his own, and the Interests of his People, and that Religion which he outwardly profest. For

For upon Concluſion of that Peace, having leiſure to look about him, and to obſerve how the *French* had in the Year 1667. taken their opportunity, and while we were embroyled and weakned by the late War, had in Violation of all the moſt Sacred and Solemn Oaths and Treaties, Invaded, and Taken a great part of the *Spaniſh Netherlands*, which had always been conſidered as the natural Frontier of *England*; the King then prompted more by his own Fears, then out of any kindneſs he had for the Nation, judg'd it neceſſary to interpoſe, before the Flames that conſumed next Neighbour ſhould throw the Sparks over the Water.

Thereupon he ſent Sir *William Temple*, then his Reſident at *Bruſſels*, to propoſe a nearer Alliance with the *Hollanders*, and to take joynt Meaſures againſt the *French*; which Propoſals of Sir *William Temple*'s being entertained with all Compliance by the *Dutch*, within Five days after Two ſeveral Treaties were concluded between the King and the States: The one a Defenſive, and ſtricter League than before, between the Two Nations; and the other a joynt and reciprocal Engagement to oppoſe the Conqueſt of *Flanders*, and to procure, either by way of Mediation, or by force of Arms, a ſpeedy Peace between *France* and *Spain*, upon the Terms therein mentioned: And becauſe *Sweeden* came into the ſame Treaty, within a very little while after, from the Three Parties concern'd and engag'd, it was called the *Tripple League*. In purſuance of which, the Treaty of *Aix la Chapelle* was alſo forc'd upon the *French*, and in ſome meaſure upon the *Spaniards*, who were unwilling to part with ſo great a part of their Country by a Solemn Treaty.

This

The King of *France* thus ſtopped in his Career by the *Tripple League*, and by the Peace of *Aix la Chapelle*, ſoon after concluded, tho' for a while he diſſembled his diſſatisfaction, yet reſolved to untye the *Tripple League*, whatſoever it coſt him, and therefore ſet his Counſels to work, to try all the ways he could poſſibly think on, in order to compaſs his ſad Deſign. To which purpoſe (and as it's generally thought, that which affected it) the Dutcheſs of *Orleance* was ſent over to *Dover*; where, if common Fame ſay true, ſeveral Chamber Secrets were performed.

This Treaty was for a long time, a work of Darkneſs, and lay long concealed, till the King of *France*, to the end the King of *England* being truly ſet forth in his Colours, out of a deſpair of ever being truſted, or forgiven by his People hereafter, might be puſh'd to go on bare faced, and follow his ſteps in Government, moſt Treacherouſly and Unking like, cauſed it to be printed at *Paris*; though upon Complaint, made at the *French* Court, and the Author (though he had his Inſtructions from *Colbert*) to humour the King, committed to the *Baſtile* for a ſhort time, and then let out again. However, the Book being Printed, ſome few Copies lit into ſafe Hands; from whence take the Subſtance of the *Myſtery of Iniquity* as followeth:

After that Monſieur de Croiſy, *the* French *Embaſſador at* London, *had laid before the Eyes of the King of* England, *all the Grounds which his Majeſty had of Complaint againſt* Holland, *&c. He told him, That the time was come to revenge himſelf of a Nation that had ſo little Reſpect for Kings, and that the occaſion was never more favourable, ſeeing many of the Princes of* Germany *were already entred into the* League; *and that the King of* France *was powerful*

erful enough to be able to promiſe to his Allies, in the Iſſue of that War for ſatisfaction, both as to their Honour and Intereſts, whereby he prevailed with that Prince to enter into Secret Alliance with France. *And for his greater Aſſurance, and the more to confirm him,* Henrietta, *Dutcheſs of* Orleance, *went for* England, *and propoſed to her Brother, in the Name of the moſt Chriſtian King. that he would aſſure him an abſolute Authority over his Parliament, and full power to eſtabliſh the Catholick Religion in his Kingdoms of* England, Scotland *and* Ireland: *But withal ſhe told him, that to compaſs this before all things elſe, it would be neceſſary to abate the Pride and Power of the* Dutch, *and to reduce them to the ſole Province of* Holland; *and that by this means the King of* England *ſhould have* Zealand *for a Retreat, in caſe of neceſſity, and that the reſt of the Low-Countries ſhould remain to the King of* France, *if he could render himſelf Maſter of it.*

This is the Sum of that Famous Leage, concluded at *Dover*, framed and entred into on purpoſe, for the Subjugation of theſe Three Nations to *Popery* and *Slavery*.

Soon after this, the Emperor of *Germany*, the Duke of *Lorrain*, and ſeveral other *German* Princes, deſired to be admitted into the *Tripple League*, but it was abſolutely refuſed them.

Nay, So ſoon as the Two Confederate Monarchs had thus made a ſhift to cut the Gordian Knot, the now pitiful, but formerly vaunted *Tripple League*, was trampled under foot, turned into Ridicule, and leſs valued than a Ballad: Inſomuch, that to talk of admitting others into the *Tripple League*, was apprehended in Print as a kind of Figure of Speech, commonly called a Bull.

And thus it is plain, That the *Tripple League* was broken from no other ends than to be Subſervient

to the Ends of the *French* King, to ruine the *Dutch*, and to bring the Three Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, under the Yokes of Arbitrary Power, and *Roman Catholick* Idolatry, after a Total Abolition of the Name of Parliaments, and Subversion of the Fundamental Laws, *Gratias tibi piissime atque invictissime Rex*, Carole *Secunde*. And that he might not as much as in him lay, meet with after rubs, Mr. *H. C.* was dispatched into *Sweeden*, to dissolve the *Tripple League* in that Kingdom; which he did so effectually, by co-operating with the *French* Ministers in that Court, that the *Swede*, after it came to Rupture, never assisted to any purpose, or prosecuted the ends of the said Alliance, only by Arming himself at the expence of the *League*; first under a disguised Mediation, acted the *French* Interest, and at last threw off his Vizard, and drew his Sword on the *French* side in the Quarrel. And at home, when the Project repined, and grew hopeful, the Lord-Keeper was discharged from his Office, and both he, the Duke of *Ormond*, Prince *Rupert*, and Secretary *Trevor*, were discarded out of the Committee for Forreign Affairs, as being too honest to comply with the Intreagues then on Foot.

The Exchequer for some Years before, by the Fruit of more than ordinary Gain, had decoy'd in the greatest part of the most Wealthy Goldsmiths, and they the rest of the Money'd People of the Nation, by the due Payment of Interest, till the King was run in Debt, upon what Account no Body knew, above Two Millions *Sterling*, which served for one of the Pretences in the Lord-Keepers Speech, at the opening of the Parliament, to demand and obtain a Grant of the fore-mentioned Supplies, and might plentifully have sufficed to dis-engage the King with Peace, and any tolerable good Husbandry:

bandry: But as if it had been perfidious to have applied them to any of the Purposes declared, instead of Payment, it was privately resolved upon to shut up the Exchequer, lest any part of the Money should have been legally expended, but that all might be appropriated to the Holy War in prospect, and those far more Pious uses to which the King had Dedicated it.

This Affair was carried on with all the Secresie imaginable, lest the unseasonble venting of it should have spoiled the Wit and Malice of the Design: So that all on a sudden, upon the first of *January*, 1671. to the great Astonishment, Ruin and Despair of so many Interest Persons, and to the Terror of the whole Nation, by so Arbitrary a Fact; the Proclamation Issued forth in the midst of the Confluence of so many vast Aids, and so great a Revenue, whereby the Crown published it self Bankrupt, made Prize of the Subject, and broke all Faith and Contract at Home, in order to the breaking of both Abroad with more Advantage.

What was this but a Robbery committed upon the People, under the Bond and Security of the Royal Faith? By which, many Hundreds were as really impoverished and undone, as if he had violently broken into their Houses, and taken their Money out of their Coffers: Nay, that would have looked Generous and Great, whereas the other was Base and Sneaking: Only it seem'd more agreeable to His Majesty's Temper, to Rob his Subjects by a Trick, than to Plunder them by direct and open Force.

There remained nothing now, but that the King, after this Famous Exploit upon his own Subjects, should manifest his Impartiality to Foreigners, and assert the Justice of his intended Quarrel with the *Hollanders*. Thereupon, the Dispute about the

Flag, upon occaſion of the *Fanfan* Yatch, was ſtarted a freſh, and a great noiſe was made of Infamous Libels, horrid Pictures, Pillars ſet up, and Medals Coined, to the infinite diſhonour of his Majeſty's Perſon, his Crown and Dignity, though not one of the Libels or Pictures could be produced; and as for the Pillars, they never had any Being, but in the imagination of thoſe that made it their buſineſs to raiſe Jealouſies between the Two Nations. 'Tis true, there was a Medal coin'd, which might have been ſpared; but ſo ſoon as it was known in *Holland*, that Exceptions were taken at it, the Stamp was broken to pieces.

Some time after, the *French* King ſeeing the *Engliſh* (after the Affair of Sir *R. H.* on the *Smirna* Fleet) engaged paſt all Retreat, comes in with his Fleet, not to Fight, but only to ſound our Seas, to ſpy our Ports, to learn our Building, to learn our way of Fighting, and to conſume ours, and preſerve his own Navy: For no ſooner had the Duke of *York*, as the Deſign was laid, ſuffered himſelf to be ſhamefully ſurprized; but the Vice-Admiral, the Earl of *Sandwich* was Sacrificed, and the reſt of the *Engliſh* Fleet ſo torn and mangled, that the *Engliſh* Honour was laid not in the Duſt, but in the Mud, while his Royal Highneſs did all that was expected from him, and Monſieur *D' Eſtrees*, who Commanded the *French*, did all that he was ſent for.

There was Three other ſeveral Engagements of ours with the *Dutch* the next Summer. But while nothing was tenable at Land againſt the *French*, ſo it ſeem'd, that to the *Engliſh* every thing was impregnable at Sea, which was not to be attributed to the want of Courage, or Conduct of the then Commanders, but rather to the unlucky Conjunction of the *Engliſh* to the *French*, like the Diſaſters

ſters that happen to Men, by being in ill Company.

In the mean time the hopes of the *Spaniſh* and *Smyrna* Fleet being vaniſhed, the ſlender Allowance from the *French*, not ſufficing to defray farther Charges, and the ordinary Revenue of His Majeſty, with all the former Aids, being in leſs than one Years time exhauſted, the Parliament, with the King's moſt Gracious leave was permitted to Sit again at the time appointed. At what time, at the King's and the Lord-Keepers uſual daubing way, the War was firſt Communicated to them, and the Cauſes, the Neceſſity, and Danger ſo well pointed out, that upon the King's earneſt Suit, the Commons, though in a War begun without their Advice, readily Voted no leſs than One Million, Two Hundred and Fifty Thouſand Pounds *Steoling*, though they would not ſay it was for the War, but for the King's extraordinary Occaſions.

And now the King, having got the Money into his Hands, a new Project was ſet on foot, to ſet up an Army in *England*, for the introducing of Slavery and Popery, under the pretence of Landing in *Holland*, which was raiſed with all the expedition imaginable: over which was Coll. *Fitz-Gerald*, an *Iriſh* Papiſt, made Major-General, ſo were the greateſt number of the Captains, and other Officers of the ſame ſtamp.

And becauſe that pretence was ſoon blown over, it was afterwards ſtill continued on foot, under the more plauſible Colour of a War with *France*.

But after all theſe cunning Contrivances, to do with them what he pleaſed; whereas before they had Power to Aſſemble every Three Years, by an Enacted Law: And no leſs frankly they

Surrendred the Power of the Militia into his Hands; of both which Acts, being done in haste, they had leisure enough afterwards to repent.

But notwithstanding all the great Kindness of this Parliament, and their more than extraordinary Liberality to the King, of several Millions of the Peoples Money, which was with the same Profusion, wasted upon his Pleasures, and the carrying on his Designs for the Introducing of *Popery* and *French*, not a Penny hardly to the good of the Nation, while the Seamen were fed with a *Bit* and a *Knock*; and the Merchants that supplied the Stores of the Navy were Cheated of their Money, and never paid to this day; with what Scorn and Contempt he used them, and how far from that Esteem and Veneration he professed to have for them, while he was wheedling for his Restauration, is apparent to all the Kingdom. 'Tis true, the King continued them till all Men of impartial Knowledge and Judgment thought them Dissolved by Law; and till that they were Dissolv'd by himself, the 25th. of *January*, 1678. not that they Sat so long, but were discontinued, and contemptuously spared from Meeting to Meeting, many times by the intimated Orders, and to promote the Designs of the *French* King, and never suffered them to Sit, but when the King was in extream necessity of Money. Among the rest of those Prorogations, there was one, at a time when the greatest urgency in Affairs, the greatest danger that threatned the *English* Nation, required their Sitting, when they were diving into the Bottom of the *Popish Plot*, and endeavouring to bring to condign Punishment the chief Instruments, which the King had made use of to compass his Arbitrary and *Popish* Design: Very remarkable is the Actions of the Preceding Night, which was follow'd by the Morning Prorogations;

rogations; the relation of which is so gross, that we think to draw a Curtain over it, lest common Fame should lead us into an Error in any particular. However, this is certain, that Prince *Rupert* the next Morning, understanding what Resolutions were taken, pressed the King with all the vehemency imaginable, that Argument and Reason could enforce; but at the same time the Duke of *York* stuck close to his Brother, telling him, *That his Cousin Rav'd*, &c. so that the Duke that advised for the Ruine of the Nation was believed; but the Prince that spoke his Mind freely for the Good of the Kingdom was dismissed for a *Mad*-man.

So well did the King Act his Part, that when his well-meaning Counsellors lent their assisting hands, to prevent the Consequences of *French* and *Popish* Dictates, they were mistaken in the Man, and gave their wholsome Advice to him that was not bound to take it.

During this Sessions of *P*arliament, many foul things came to light; for while the King had raised an Army, and pressed the Parliament for Money to maintain them, under pretence of making a War with *France*, which was the earnest desire of all the Protestant part of the Kingdom. The Parliament were fully informed, that while the King boasted of the Alliances which he had made for the Preservation of *Flanders*, and the *P*rotestant Religion, both at home and abroad, he was secretly entred into Treaties and Alliances at the same time with the *French* King; and Mr. *Garroway* of the House of Commons had gotten a Copy of the private Treaty between the King of *England*, and the *French* King, at the same Instant that the Secretary and the others of the Court Party cried out a War; insomuch that several that were then in the House

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of Commons began to bluſh when they ſaw the Cheat ſo palpably diſcerned. It was farther diſcovered, That a great Favoueite of the Dukes had been ſent over into *France*, under a pretence of Expoſtulating, and requiring Satisfaction for the Injuries which the *Engliſh* had received from the *French*; but in reality to carry the Project of Articles for the Peace, and to ſettle and confirm all things faſt about the Money that was to come from *France*, and to agree the Methods for Shamming the Confederates, about their expected Alliances. They found themſelves cheated of all the Pole Bill Money, which they had given ſo little a while before, upon the Aſſurance of a War intended againſt *France*, the greateſt part of which they perceiv'd was immediately, tho appropriated to the *French* War only, converted to other Uſes, as the paying of old Debts, ſo that very little was left for paying any Neceſſaries bought, or to be bought, towards the pretended War with *France*.

Nor were they ignorant of the real Deſign for which the King had raiſed his Army, and what care the King and his Brother took, that there ſhould be no other Officers in that Army, than what were fit for the Work in Hand, which was to introduce *Popery* and *French* Government by main force. The greater part being downright Papiſts, or elſe ſuch as reſolved ſo to be upon the firſt Intimation. The Duke recommending all ſuch as he knew fit for the Turn, and no leſs than an hundred Commiſſions were Signed to *Iriſh Papiſts* to raiſe Forces, notwithſtanding the Act, by which means both the Land and Naval Forces were in ſafe Hands. And to compleat the Work, hardly a Judge, Juſtice of the Peace, or any Officer in *England*, but what was of the Dukes promotion. Nor were they ignorant of the private Negotiations of the Duke,

carried

carried on by the Kings Connivance with the Pope, and Cardinal *Norfolk*, who had undertaken to raise Money from the Church, sufficient to supply the King's Wants till the Work were done, in case the Parliament should smoke their Design, and refuse to give any more. Nor was the Parliament ignorant what great Rejoicing there was in *Rome* it self, to hear in what a posture His Majesty was, and how well provided of an Army and *Money* to begin the Business.

The Parliament also understood, while they were labouring the War with *France*, and to resist the growth of Popery and Arbitrary Power, That the King underthand assisted the *French* with Men and Ammunition of all sorts; and soon after that, a Cessation was concluded, both at *Nimeguen* and *Paris*. That the King had got some Money from *France* for that Job; by which the *French* King was now sure to hold all his Conquests abroad, which had *England* been real to the Confederates, might have been easily wrested out of his Hands. But it seems it was not so much Money as our King expected, which made him Angry; so that he began to threaten, That if the *French* King did not perform his *Promise* of 300000 *l.* Annuity for Three Years, he would undo all that he had done against the next Parliament. But the *French* King derided those vain Threats, menacing in his turn; That if the King of *England* would not be content with his Terms, and do and say to the Parliament according to his Directions, he would discover both him and his Correspondents in betraying the Nation, and discover all his Secret Contrivances against the Kingdom, as afterwards he *Published* the *Dover* Treaty at *Paris*, which was the reason, that after that His Majesty of *England* never durst disoblige the *French* Monsieur, but became a perfect Slave to his

his Interest: a Bondage he never needed to have undeagone, had he been but half as sincere to his *English* Parliament: But to them he was never true, with them he always broke his Faith and Royal Word.

So that now all things running on the Papistical side, to their Hearts desire, what with the Popish Soldiers, Popish Officers, Popish Councils, Popish Priests and Jesuits, swarming about the Town and Country, and *France* at leisure to help them, who had helped him to be more a Conqueror by the Peace, than he could have expected by a War. The Duke of *York* was for the King's pulling off his Vizard, and for setting up *Alamode of France* according to what had been so often debated at *White-Hall*, and St. *James*'s.

But while the King and his Brother were thus riding Post to ruine the Laws and Religion of the Kingdom, the Discovery of the *Popish Plot* by Dr. *Oats*, broke all their Measures for a time, by laying open their Secret Contrivances for the introducing of Popery and Arbitrary Government.

This Plot was no sooner made known to the King, but he imparts it to the Duke; not the knowledge of the Plot, for that he knew before, but the News of the Plots being discovered. Upon which they set themselves, with all the Care they could, to stop the further Progress of the Discovery. To which purpose, the Duke gives notice of it to his trusty Secretary *Coleman*, and the Priests and Jesuits in the *Savoy*; by which means, what Popery and Persons were to be concealed and conveyed away, was carefully look'd after. All this while, by this seasonable Detection of the King and his Brother to the Priests and Jesuits, *Oates* himself narrowly escaped being Massacred.

Oates finding himself thus Betrayed, and aban-doned by the King, applies himself to Sir *Edmund-bury Godfrey*, with a Scheme of the Plot fairly drawn up, by that means to be introduced before the Council, to have the Business there unfolded; which, with much ado, was done, and *Oates* sent for to be Examined at *White-Hall*, where he mana-ged himself with that Courage, that tho he were Brow-beaten, and opposed most strenuously; tho there were many that studied by all the ways and means imaginable to dash and confound him, yet it was impossible; he stood as firm as a Rock, and gave such pregnant Reasons for what he said, that the Council, how unwilling soever to meddle, or stir in his behalf, yet at last were constrained, by the clearness of the Evidence, to grant Warrants for the seisure of several Priests that Night, who were taken and sent to Prison.

Upon this followed the Assassination and Murther of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*, perpetrated by the Countenance and Contrivance, nay, express Com-mand of the Duke: For proof of which, a little opening of the Cause and Occasion, and a short Re-lation of the Effects, Consequences, and Events which ensued upon it, will both enlighten us to the Truth of Matters, and confirm our Belief, who were the Authors of, and Accessors to it.

For, as has been already said, That Gentleman had received an Information upon Oath, from Dr, *Oates*, about a Plot against our Laws, Lives, and Religion; but finding something in the Deposition that reflected upon Mr. *Coleman*, with whom he had an intimate Acquaintance; he thereupon took an opportunity to let him understand what Informa-tion he had received, and to tell him, That the only way to justifie his own Innocency, was, To contribute all his Endeavours and Assistance to pre-

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vent so bloody a Design: But *Coleman*, instead of denying the Truth of those things which Sir *Edmund* related, or offering his endeavours to obstruct the Progress of it, or to defeat the Success of that Plot, not only acknowledged, That there was a Conspiracy against our Laws, Liberties, and Religion, but it was advanced so far, and seconded by Persons of that Quality in the Nation and Figure in the Government, there was no possibility to give a Lett or Disappointment to it. And more particularly, he told him, That the King was a Promoter himself of the Design of Overthrowing the Protestant Religion, and altering the Government: which *Coleman* calling to Mind, after his being committed to *New-Gate*, and considering, That by that means Sir *Eduund* was enabled to come in a second Witness against him. He therefore ordered it so, as not only to get the Duke acquainted with his own Danger, but that his Highness and Others, whom he had mentioned in his Conversation with Sir *Edmund*, were in the same Predicament, and would certainly be brought upon the Stage. To which he received this Answer from the Duke, That he should not be apprehensive of any danger from Sir *Edmund*, in regard there would be a way found out to prevent his hurting of *Coleman*, or any body else. Now, that he was thereupon most Barbarously Murthered, is a thing too well known; and then who were concerned, the Circumstances make it plain.

First, The Circumstance of the Place, *viz. Somerset-House*, leading to the *Savoy*, in some of the Apartments of which said House, the Murthered Body was also concealed for several days. The next Circumstance was, The Guarding of the Gate and Avenues of the Palace so strictly all that time, and denying the People their wonted Liberty of Access

to

to the House, and Passage through; which could not have been done, but by the King's Authority. Nor would some great Ladies have adventured to have gone and viewed the Body while it lay there concealed, by which they involved themselves in the Guilt of the Crime, but that they knew they could hardly be called to an Account for it, considering by whose Connivance and Command the Fact was committed. Nay, some severe Censures were passed on the Account, and others which were Charged with that Murther, were protected from Justice.

Add to this, That when we consider the Motives that urged the necessity of this Murther, which was *Coleman*'s having acknowledged to Sir *Edmund*, That the King, as well as the Duke, was in that part of the Conspiracy, to alter the Government, and overturn our Religion: And no body, at that time, was more sorry for the Detection of the Plot than the King; neither did any body labour afterwards to baffle the belief of it more than he did. Nor had he any thing in the World to excuse himself for so doing, but that he was concerned in that part of the Popish Plot which related to the overthrow of the Religion and Laws of the Nation, and the destruction of the Chief and most Zealous Protestants of the Kingdom, as was sufficiently acknowledged by *Coleman*, not only to Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*, but to the Committee of Parliament that Examined him at *Newgate*: Which was so plain, that nothing influenced those Gentlemen to conceal that part of his Confession in their Report to the House, but their pity and compassion to the King, which would not permit them to expose him so black; tho it was as certain, that they frequently imported their knowledge to their Friends.

Nor did it a little add to confirm the Truth of what is here related. That Emiſſaries ſhould be ſent from the Court to deal under-hand with the Coroner and the Jury, to have gotten a Verdict of *Felo de ſe*. But the Proofs of his being murthered were ſo apparent; ſuch as his Neck being broke, and the cleanneſs of his Shoes, that nothing could corrupt the Jury from bringing it in otherwiſe than it was.

Under theſe diſtreſſes did the King and Duke labour, terribly afraid of the approaching Parliament, for the ſake of their Popiſh Minions and Inſtruments, whoſe utmoſt Care and Induſtry could not prevent it; but that ſeveral of *Coleman*'s Letters and Papers were found, which detected the Negotiations of the King and Duke, (for all the World can never ſeparate them, by maintaining that the Duke durſt ever have tranſacted ſuch Treaſons abroad, being then no more than another Subject, without his Brother's conſent) ſo that they were in an extraordinary quandary, whether the Parliament ſhould Sit or not: But the King's extream neceſſity for Money prevailed upon him to let them Sit: Beſides that, the King who had all along acted under his Proteſtant Mask, was ſenſible that the Kingdom would have cry'd out Shame, had he put off the Parliament at ſuch a conjuncture of Combuſtion and Diſtraction as that was.

But when the Parliament met, according to the uſual wont, how many Stories and Shams was there endeavoured to be put upon them?

For in the interval of the Seſſion, notwithſtanding that the Parliament had given him Money to Disband the New-raiſed Army, He, to try an Experiment how the Nation would brook his wrigling into that Arbitrary Power which he aimed at all along, had ſpent the Money upon his other Occaſi-

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ons, and kept up the Army ſtill. Nevertheleſs, to excuſe the Fraud which he had put upon the diſguſted Nation, he tells the Parliament, *That he had been obliged to keep up his Troops, to keep his Neighbours from abſolute Deſpair; and that he had been ſollicited from abroad, not to Disband them.*

Now, was ever ſuch a Story told by a Prince, and vouched in the Face of the Nation by a bred Lawyer, *viz.* his Chancellor, to juſtifie the Breach of a Law of the Three Eſtates of the Kingdom, as ſoon as made; and then to ſham the Parliament off, with Chriſtendom, and the Worlds commending us for the breaking our own Laws, to patch up a Peace, which tended to nothing but the ruine of thoſe for whom it was made. The Sum of which was, in ſhort, that the King, to ſerve his own Arbitrary Ends, had run himſelf into an Inconvenience, by defrauding the Nation; however, the Parliament was to be contented with it, and to pay for it to boot; that is, to pay double for the keeping up a *Popiſh* Army to ſecure the Proteſtant Religion.

But the Parliament taking little notice of theſe fine Stories, fell to the main Buſineſs, which was, to ſound the depth of the *Plot*. Upon Examination of which, notwithſtanding that many *Papers* of great Importance had, with a more than ordinary Induſtry been conveyed away; yet, by thoſe that were found, ſo much appeared that the Houſe Voted it to be a *Damnable Plot, to root up and deſtroy the Religion and Government of the Kingdom*; and privately got the Lord Chief Juſtice *Scroggs* to Sign Warrants for the Apprehending the Popiſh Lords, which was done accordingly. And for their further Security, they prepared a Bill for putting the Nation into a poſture of Defence, and for raiſing the Militia throughout the Kingdom, to be in Arms for ſo many days, which paſſed both Houſes without

any difficulty; but the King, out of his Zeal to the Protestant Religion, refused to Pass it. And then it was, that the Parliament found too late the Complement which they had passed upon him, in returning him the Power of the Militia, which he made use of keeping up standing Armies for their Destruction, but refused for the Security of the Nation.

This therefore not prevailing, they began to provide against Papists Sitting in either House; and fram'd a Bill, with a Test to be taken by every Member of both Houses, or else to loose their Seat. This, though his Protestant Majesty did not openly oppose himself, yet after a close Consultation held at St. *James's*, He ordered all his Instruments in the Lords House to withstand the passing of it there; which, though they could not Effect, yet they prevailed so far, that they got a *Proviso* in it for the D. of *York*, whereby they did him the kindness as to declare him a *Papist* to all the World.

After this, the Parliament proceeded to the Impeaching of such Persons as they had found to be deepest in the Contrivance of all our Mischiefs; but, That his Majesty lookt upon't as a Business that so nearly concerned his own Honour, that, like his Father, when the Duke of *Buckingham* was accused of poysoning *James* I. he would not endure the Parliament, in such a *Jehu*-like Chase after the Popish Conspirators, but Foot balled them again with a Prorogation for several Months. So careful was his Protestant Majesty to stifle as much as in him lay, and to prevent the Prosecution of an Infernal Plot, which he knew was so deeply laid, like the Axe of Popary, to the Root of all his Protestant Dominions.

Nor

Nor was this all, for so soon as he had dismissed the *Parliament*, and had secured his Accomplices, he took all the Care imaginable to discredit *Oates* and *Bedlow*'s Evidence. Forty One was again inculcated into all the ignorant Pates about the Town, and *Merry-Andrew (Roger)* had his Pension out of the *Gazette*, continued to ridicule the *Plot*, which he did in a most leud and shameless manner; and Money given to set up a new Divinity Academy in a publick Coffee-House, to Act the *Protestant Whore of Babylon*, and give about his Revelation Cup to the Raw Inferior Clergy, and instruct them in better Doctrine than ever they learnt in the University.

Nor did he stop at the endeavouring to discredit the Testimonies of those Witnesses, but sent his Head Emissaries to corrupt them to a denial, and retracting what they had discovered; and when that would not do, *Knox* and *Lane* were sub-armed to accuse *Oates* of Buggery, thereby to have taken him.

Add to this, his Dissolving of this Enquiring *Parliament*, at the Solicitation of the Duke; and the extraordinary diligence of his Protestant Majesty to get the next Parliament fit for his Turn, which was suddenly to be called, to stop the Mouths of the People.

To which purpose, all the Money that could possibly be spared out of the Exchequer, was issued out to divers Persons, to manage the Elections all over the Kingdom, under the old notion of Secret Service; in one Article 1500 *l.* in another 2000 *l.* and the Guineas flew about the Country far and near to the Corporations, to Hire Places, and get fit Men, the Heads of the Counties and Corporations were sent for, and told what Men would be serviceable and acceptable to the King: and parti-

cularly the Gentlemen of *Essex* were sent to; by the Chief Justice *Scroggs*, and Cautions that they should not chuse *Mildmay* whatever they did. And new Charters were obtained for some Corporations, with new Priviledges, and sent them down to be hung out at the Windows, to animate the People to chuse such Men as they were directed. What more could have been done by a Protestant Prince, to destroy his Protestant Subjects, and advance the *Roman* Catholick Cause? When this Parliament Sate, the King pursued his old Method of Speaking with his Lips what was fartherst from his Heart, and being in the House of Lords, he there tells Both Houses a plausible Story, how he had consented to the Exclusion of the Popish Lords from their Seats in Parliament, to the Execution of several Criminals, both upon the Score of the Plot, and the *Murder* of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*; but above all, how he had Commanded his Brother to absent himself from him, because he would not leave the most Malicious Men room to say, he had not removed all Causes which could be pretended to Influence him to Popish Counsels. In all which there was not one word of Truth, as to the Motives that engaged him to do what he did.

For as to the Exclusion of the Popish Lords, he knew it was what he could not avoid, unless he would have absolutely thrown off his Protestant Mask, which he was sensible it was not seasonable for him so to do. As for the Jesuits that were Hanged for the Plot, he pleased himself as well as the People, by Sacrificing a few Inconsiderable Miscreants to his own Revenge, for ungratefully Plotting against his Life, who had all along been so faithful to their Cause; and indeed it was but just they should dye like Knaves and Traytors, who had been such Fools to mistrust so true a Protestant

Prince.

Prince. As to the Murther of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*, what could he have done less, except he would have exposed himself to the Clamour of the whole Nation. That would have been the greatest Folly in the World, for a Prince that loved to Sleep in a whole Skin, as he did, for the Preservation of Three or Four Rascals, Convicted of a Bloody Murther, to have Sacrificed His Honour and His Safety to *Publick* Scandal and Resentment.

And then as for the Removal of his dear Brother, it was done after a long and deep Consultation, upon these Considerations. First, That the Duke being out of the way, might stop the farther Examination of the Plot, in Relation to himself, and thereby one of the chief Conspirators be preserved safe. And Secondly, For a shew that the King was such an Enemy to *Popery* and Popish Counsels, that he would not suffer so much as the Breath of a Brother near him, for fear of Infection. For in these Gracious Protestant Acts lay all his hopes of making the Parliament give Credit to his Words, and getting Money from them, at a time when the *French* King most Treacherously failed him.

Notwithstanding these things, the *Parliament*, not being to be deluded by all those seeming Acts of Protestant Grace, took little notice of those Gaudy Trappings of the Kings Discourse, but fell briskly to work upon the Plot, and the Murther of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*, to which purpose they made choice of a Secret Committee to pursue that Business, and laid all other Considerations aside, but those of securing the Nation against *Popery* and *Arbitrary Government*; in order whereunto, they began to think of bringing the Lords and others in the *Tower* to their Tryals: And upon a Report of their

their Committee, of the Duke of *York*'s Letters, wherein it appeared what great Joy had been conceived at *Rome*, for the Dukes Converſion, even to draw Tears from his Holyneſſes Eyes, with ſeveral other Papers, diſcovering much of the Court Intreagues with *Rome*. They Voted the Hopes of his coming to the Crown, to be one of the chief Cauſes of the Popiſh Plot; and ordered a Bill to diſinable him to Inherit the Imperial Crown of the Realm.

Theſe *Proceedings* were of ſo high a Nature, and ſo directly tending to the overthrow of that Structure, which the King and the Duke had been ſo long erecting, that it was thought requiſite to Treat them with all the Art and Subtilty imaginable, which produced Two of the greateſt Maſter pieces that ever were acted by the Conſpirators ever ſince their firſt deſigning Popery and *French* Tyranny. The firſt was, To blind and couzen the Houſe of Commons, by ſeeming to ſhew an utter diſlike of all former Councils that had brought the Nation to the Condition it was in. In purſuance of which, the old Council was Diſſolved, and the greateſt Sticklers againſt the Plot, and for the Proteſtant Religion, choſen in their room: to the end that if any Miſcarriages happened, they might be all laid to their Charge; or that Miſcarriages might receive a more Candid Interpretation, as being done by ſuch good Men againſt whoſe Fidelity the Nation had no exception.

The next Device was, To turn the whole Plot, and the Odium of it, upon the Proteſtants, under the Notion of Presbyterian and *Phanaticks*; which is ſo well known needs no repeating.

But in the midſt of theſe Court Intrigues to run down the Plot, the Houſe of Commons went on vigorouſly both againſt the Plot, and Popiſh Delinquents; which grated ſo hard upon the Popiſh Party, and was ſuch an Obſtruction to their Deſigns, That the King compaſſionating their Grievances more than thoſe of his *Proteſtant* SubjeAs, give way to the Diſſolution of the Parliament; yet, with promiſe of another to meet towards the latter end of the Year, under pretence of frequent Parliaments; but in reality, to try if he could get another fitter for his turn.

Ane now the King having laid aſide the Parliament, and freed his Inſtruments from the Terror of it, was ſo far from not permitting himſelf to be influenced by Popiſh Counſellors, that he began to play the Old Game, and firſt of all the popular *Proteſtant* Lords of the Council were by degrees decently laid aſide, and the Duke was ſent for home. The Lord *Shaftsbury*, for oppoſing it, was ſeverely Reprimanded in Council, with a Wonder, How any Perſon that ſate at that Board, durſt ſo bolply affront his Royal Highneſs? For the Face of Affairs was changed, and the King was now ſwimming in his own Element again. Only it was ſtrange, that he was no more concerned to ſee the ſtrain of the whole Kingdom run againſt him. For notwithſtanding all his Induſtry to have brought in his Band of Penſioners again, it was found, the new Choſen *Parliament*, which was by this time ready to Sit, was likely to prove worſe for his turn than any of the former, which made him have recourſe to his old Shifts of Proroguing, which was done by Proclamation, to gain a little time for the acquitting of Sir *George Wakeman*. So kind was his *Proteſtant Majeſty* to help out his deſponding Friends at a dead lift, in order to the Sham *Plot*, which he was afterwards deſigning. For

For now the *Parliament* being cut off, He was at leisure to advise with his *Popish* Instruments, who were no less sedulous to give their Advice to the utmost that their active Brains could reach. By this sedulity it was, That the *Meal Tub Anti-Plot* was contrived and hatched: Only Tools were wanting to manage and carry on the Treacherous Design. Therefore, not knowing where else to find Miscreants fit for such Diabolical Enterprises, all the Goals about the Town were raked for needy *Profligates*. It will be needless to give History of that which has been so sufficiently discovered for an abominable Imposture.

The Miscarriage of this Blessed Design, caused a second Prorogation of the Parliament, upon hopes of 200000 *l.* from *France*, which was dexterously prevented by the Duke of *Buckingham*; which the King so ill resented, That his Attorney General had Orders in Council to Indict him of Buggery, with a design to have taken away his Life, and repair the *French* Disapointment, by the Confiscation of his Estate, had the Project taken. Never so much Villany in Contrivance; never so much Money ill spent, and never worse luck. The like Success happened in that damned Sham Plot Intrigue between *Fitz Harris*, *Nell Wall*, with the *French* Dutchess, *&c.*

Nor must it be omitted as an Argument of His Majesties great Zeal for the *Protestant* Religion, That when one *Sergeant*, a *Priest*, made a Discovery of the *Popish Plot* from *Holland*, which he caused to be transmitted to the Court, with an Intention to have discovered several others, he was first bribed off, and then sent for into *England*, slightly and slily examined, had his Pardon given him, and sent back with Five pound a Week to say no more.

Nor

Nor was it a thing leſs aſtoniſhing to the Nation, to ſee the *Parliament* prorogued from time to time, no leſs than ſeven times, before permitted to Sit, on purpoſe to get time for the *Popiſh* Duke to ſettle the *Proteſtant* Religion in *Scotland*; and to the end, the Conſpirators might get heart and footing again, and retrieve their Loſſes in *England*; and in this Interval it was, That Meſſengers were ſent to their Friends at *Rome*, and others their Aſſociates, for Money to ſtrike while the Iron was hot, in regard that *Scotland* by this time was ſecured, and all things in ſuch a forwardneſs, that now or never was the time; but the *Pope* had ſuch an ill Opinion of our Sovereigns Fidelity, that he ſlipt his Neck out of the Collar, and in imitation of him, the reſt excuſed themſelves upon the Score of their poverty.

Thus miſſing Money from *Rome*, and the reſt of their *Popiſh* Aſſociates; and the King of *France* refuſing to part with any more Caſh, there was no way but one, at a fore'd put, which was to let the *Parliament* Sit, and to make them more willing to give Money to undo the Nation. The King, in a framed Speech, told them, of the wonderful advantagious Alliances for the Kingdoms good he had made with Foreign *Princes*, and particularly with *Holland*; and how neceſſary it was to preſerve *Tangier*, which had already run him in Debt. Upon which Conſiderations, the Burthen of his Song was, *More Money.*

But the *Parliament* Incenſed at the frequent prorogations, fell upon Conſiderations more profitable for the Kingdom, ſuch as were the bringing to condign puniſhment the Obſtructers of their Sitting: The Impeachment of *North* for drawing the *Proclamation* againſt petitioning, and Three of the Judges for diſmiſſing the Grand Jury, before whom

the Duke was Indicted of Recusancy, before they could make their presentments; the prosecution of the *Popish Plot*, and the Examination of the *Meal Tub Sham*; all which they looked upon to be of greater Moment than the Kings Arguments for his Want. For it was well known, That by his perfidious Dealings abroad, he had so impared his Credit with all the Foreign Princes, to whom he sent, that they slighted his Applications, as one upon whose Word they could never Rely. And as for the preservation of *Tangier*, there was nothing less in his Thoughts. A fine Credit for a Prince, and an excellent Character to recommend him to posterity, That he had no other than his own siniſter Ends upon the Grand Council of his Kingdom; nor no other way to work them to those Ends, unless by forging Untruths, to make him accessary to the betraying of the people that had entrusted them.

The *Parliament* therefore bent all their Cares to secure the Kingdom from Popery; concluding that the Dukes Apostatizing from his Religion, was the sole Evil under which the Nations in a more particular manner groaned. and consequently that he was to be Disinherited. But the King being resolved not to forsake his Brother, whatever became of the Kingdom, took such a high Resentment against these honest and just proceedings of the Houses, that after he had Sacrificed the Lord *Stafford* to his hopes of obtaining Money, upon the Dukes undertaking to furnish him, he Dissolved this Parliament too, with promise of another at *Oxford*, to sweeten the bitter pill which he had made the Nation to swallow.

In the mean time, all the Care imaginable was taken to bring the Proteſtant Plot to perfection; preparative to which, Judges were ſelected, with Diſpoſitions, Thoughts, and Minds as Scarlet as their Gowns. And the choice of Sheriffs was wreſted, by force from the people, that they might pick out Juries without Conſcience or Honeſty. A Plot contrived by perfidiouſneſs and treachery, beyond the parallel of Hiſtory. A Plot with *Pariſian* Maſſacre in the Belly of it, deſigning no leſs an Innundation of Innocent Proteſtant Blood, under the colour and forms of Juſtice; and yet, who but he, who in his laſt wheedling Speech, to pick the Nations pocket, had promiſed to conſent to any Laws againſt Popery. And the better to carry on this damned Deſign, What a Crew of Devils, in the Shape of Men, a Regiment of Miſcreants, in whom all the Tranſgreſſions of the Law and Morality were muſtered together? I ſay, what a Band of ſuch Caitiffs were Rendezvouzed, and with that Money which Parliaments give to promote the Security of the Kingdom, careſſed and pampered even to Exceſs, for the deſtruction of the Innocent? And all this, at the Expence of him that bore the Stile and Character of our Gracious Sovereign. For full proofs of which, there needs no more than to look into the Tryal of *Fitz Harris* himſelf; therefore, to recite the particulars of a Deſign already ſo well known, and publickly expoſed to all the World, would be a repetition altogether needleſs. This however was obſervable, That we were come to the height of *Tyberius*'s Reign; when Informers, and falſe Accuſers, a ſort of Men found out for the Ruine of the publick; And for the puniſhment of which, no Laws can be too ſevere, were encouraged and courted with Rewards. *Nullus a pœna hominum ceſſavit dies; dicreta accuſatoribus præmia*,

premia; *nemine delatorum fides abrogata*; *omne Crimen pro Capitali receptum, etiam paucorum ſimplicium-que Verborum.* No day paſſed without ſome Puniſhment inflicted; great Rewards given to Informers, no Informer but what was believ'd; all Crimes were adjudged Capital, tho' meerly a few idle Words. Such a harmony there was between theſe Times, and pernicious Reign of that Maſter in Cruelty and Diſſimulation, *Tiberius*.

But the Roguery being diſcovered, while *Fitz Harris* thought to have put *Everard* upon this Dilemma, either to Hang, or fix the Libel upon others, he came to run himſelf into the Nooſe. Lord! into what an Agony it put the King, the Duke his dear Brother, and their then Jugling Inſtruments; that the King, who a little before was ſo overjoyed with the accounnt of the contrivance, which was given him at *Whitehall*, that he could hardly contain himſelf from diſplaying the Raptures of his Soul, was now ſo highly incenſed againſt *Fitz Harris*, that he was heard to ſay, *That he ſhould Die if there were no more Men in* England. But his Confeſſion to the Recorder, Sir *George Treby*, ſo enraged his Employers, that he was preſently lockt up in the *Tower*, out of the reach of all Men, but the Lieut. to damn him for ſpoiling ſo good a Deſign: But above all things, there was ſuch a dread amongſt the Conſpirators, leſt the Parliament ſhould come to the knowledge of the depth of the Deſign, that their reſolute inſiſting to have the Cognizance of the Crime within their own Juriſdiction, was the occaſion of the ſudden Diſſolution. After which, a Chief Juſtice was Exalted, on purpoſe to Hang *Fitz-Harris* out of the way, to prevent his farther Diſcovery; for no ſooner was the Parliament Diſſolved, but *Fitz-Harris* was Hanged; and by that means, many a Myſtery of Iniquity concealed.

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The Dissolution of this, and the forgoing Parliament, was justified by a Declaration in the King's Name, which being published with all the Severity and Reproach that could be cast upon those Worthy Patriots, verified the Report of what the King had been heard to say, *That he would make the name of Parliaments to be forgotten in* England. However, the Parliament being blown up, and the King running away in a pretended pannick Fear from *Oxford*, to colour the ensuing Projects of Plotting and Subordination; no sooner was he settled again at *London*, and *Fitz-Harris* hang'd, to the great Joy of those that Adored him before, but the *Gazette* was cram'd with Addresses from all Parts of the Nation, to thank the King for his Expressions and Promises to Govern by Law, which was no more than his Duty: But those Addresses were only Signed by the unthinking, loose, and rascally part of the People, who were not sensible of the Mischief which was thereby intended, which was to make the Nation out of Love with Parliaments, thereby to unhinge the Government, and to introduce Tyranny and Arbitrary Power: And that the Addressors were only the Canaile of the Kingdom, with only a Tool of Quality at the Head of them, the Conspirators well knew.

Some time after, *Fitz-Harris* was Executed, a Paper was Published, in the name of his *Recantation*, which his Wife hearing cried about the Streets, and viewing it, asked a certain Gentleman, *Whether those were her Husbands Papers or no?* Who told her, *They were:* To which she said, *That her Husband was Damned, for that she knew all those things to be false.*

However, upon the Ground-work of this *Recantation*, a Committee of Subordination was erected; by whose Directions, *Turbervil*, *Dugdale*, and all

the *Irish* Evidence, who had been most conversant with the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, upon the Account of the *Irish Plot*, together with one *Booth*, by whom a full Detection of the whole Villany has since been made, with a full disclosure of all the Artifices made use of, to have corrupted the Integrity of that honest Gentleman, Captain *Wilkinson*. And all those Varlets were now listed and received into Pay, by the said Committee of Subornation; and a swearing School being set up according to the directions of the Committee, they receive every one their distinct Cues and Lessons, to con and get by Heart, against occasion should serve, by the Settlement of the Committee, which was approved, as was every thing else they did, by his Protestant Majesty.

Colledge's Tryal is too well known to be here repeated, but after Ages will observe how he was removed from *London*, where he had been acquitted, to another remote Countrey, where his Prosecutors were assured of his Destruction, by deluded Ignorance and partial Knavery; how he was accused and testified against by *Naboth*'s Evidence, the Scandal and Reproach of all Mankind, whose Memories stink upon the Earth, and would soon be forgotten, but that their Names are made use of to transmit the Infamy of their Employers to Posterity. All the severities used at his Tryal were palpable Demonstrations of that Innocent Man's being determined to Destruction right or wrong, on purpose to lay the Foundation of farther Butcheries; so that being fleshed by this Success, the next attempt of the King's Justice was upon the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, for the same pretended Treason for which *Colledge* had suffered. And here Posterity will make the same Observations and Conclusions in general, as in *Colledge*'s Case: But more par-

particularly will after Ages eaſily conclude from hence, That it was not for any contrivance of his Lordſhip, but by a Project of Court and Popiſh Revenge, to deſtroy a Perſon, who by his Courage, Wiſdom, and good Intelligence, had Oppoſed and Defeated ſo many of their Deſigns, againſt the Religion and Welfare of the Nation: For that this Plot upon his Lordſhip was ſo early communicated to *Rome*, and other Foreign Parts. That it was talked of at *Paris*; and in *Flanders*, ſometime before his Lordſhip was impriſoned in *England*. They will obſerve the Injuſtice done his Lordſhip, in refuſing to let him ſee or know the Perſons that depoſed againſt him, which was not denied either to *Coleman* or the Jeſuits; and which being ſo contrary to Law, was a plain Demonſtration, That either the Witneſſes were not thought of Credit ſufficient to ſupport the Confinement of ſo great a Peer; or elſe, that it was not convenient to truſt the general courſe of their Lives to be ſcrutined too ſoon. The Motives that induced the Court to begin with this great and eminent Peer, will be eaſily diſcernable to ſucceeding Ages: For to what Man of Senſe and Reaſon is it not apparent, That it was the Policy of the Court, That their Revenge againſt this Earl ſhould not be Adjourned, till they had tryed the Credit of their Witneſſes, upon other conſiderable Perſons, for fear, leſt by his Lordſhips Induſtry and Abilities, he ſhould not only have detected and expoſed the whole Intrigue, but have broken the Engine, by which the Two Brothers thought to have made themſelves abſolute Lords of the Religion, Laws, and Liberties of the Kingdom. For which Reaſon it was thought beſt to Aſſault him by way of Surpriſe, and to hurry him to Priſon, upon a pretended Conſpiracy, which People would be aſtoniſhed at, but not have time

to unravel. For the King and his Brother were assured, That the Convicting of the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, upon a Charge of Levying War, and Conspiring to seize his Person, would be a kind of Moral proof against every other Person, whom they had a mind to accuse of the same Crime. Since People would be easily persuaded, That a Person of his Prudence and Conduct, would not easily embark himself in such a dangerous Enterprise, without a proportionable number of Persons, who by their Power, Quality and Interest, might be supposed to be able to carry it on: So that all the Noblemen and Gentlemen of *England*, that ever had any converse or acquaintance with the Earl, supposing them to be Persons obnoxious to the Court, were involved in his Ruine.

But it will remain an eternal Monument of Reproach upon R. Subordination, That after all the Industry of the Court, and their obsequious Instruments: after all their laying their Heads together, to form cohering and probable Proofs of the Charge intended to be laid against him, after an illegal Trick devised to have tryed him within their own Jurisdiction on the Verge; which was so contrary to Law, that it was exploded by their own *Bene placito Lambskin Men*; that at length he was acquitted by a Grand Jury, the most Substantial for Estates, Integrity, and soundness of Judgment, that had been returned for many Years in the City, to the never dying praise of the Two Sheriffs, Mr. *Pilkinton* and Mr. *Shute*. A Disappointment, which so incensed the King, and his dear Brother, That they resolved to make an *Islington* Village of the chief Metropolis of the whole Nation; and what they could not do by Fire, to effect by wresting from them their Franchises and Priviledges, far more ancient than the descent of those that

wrested

wrested them for a time out of their Hands: For this reason the Attorney General was ordered to bring a *Quo Warranto* against the City Charter, under the pretence of their petitioning for the Sitting of the Parliament; a thing so far from being a Crime, that it was the undoubted Right of the Nation. And yet such was the awe which the antiquity and legality of the Charter had upon the Judge, that the Fountain of Justice was forced to shift his Chief Justice, till he could fix upon one that durst to adventure to pronounce Sentence against it: Which, as it was the greatest Invasion that could be against the ancient and fundamental Constitution of the Kingdom; so it plainly laid open the King's pious Intentions of Governing by Law; which, according to the new Interpretation of the Court, was the downright subverting of all that was most Sacred and Valuable in the Nation, to the end the King might have it in his Power to violate the electing of a Parliament, and nominate and obtrude upon all Persons of the Kingdom, his own Slaves and Creatures, Papists and Traytors to their Country; so by reducing one of the most ancient Corporations, and levelling it with one of the meanest Villages in the Kingdom, that he might command the Mayor and Sheriffs, and, by their means, the Juries of the City, on purpose to have the Lives of all his Protestant Subjects at his *Mercy*.

And that this was his end, was apparent by the Consequences; for when once the King, by the overthrow of the Charter, had made sure of his own Sheriffs and Juries; Heavens! How were the Laws of *God*, and the *Kingdom* wrested by misinterpretation? How were the Precepts even of Morality it self, transversed? The Witnesses for the King caressed and countenanced in their known Subordination? The Testimonies for their pretended

ded Criminals brow-beaten, and all the Arguments of Law and Reason urged by the most Learned Council of the Nation, over-ruled by Hectoring and Swaggering Judges, to take away the Lives of the L. *Russel*, Col. *Sidney*, *Armstrong*, and several others, meerly to gratifie the Rage of Popish Revenge.

Such were the Violences of the Court at that time, in defiance of Justice, as if all fear of giving account to future Parliaments, had been thrown off, or that they never intended to be troubled with them more, till they had framed the Nation into such a posture, as to chuse such Members as would not only forgive such Villanies, but go sharers with them in the spoil of the Kingdom.

But then followed the Barbarous and Horrid Murther of the Earl of *Essex*; which how far it could be laid to the King's Charge, we shall not here pretend to determine; tho it seem somewhat strange, that the King could find no other Morning to accompany his Brother to the *Tower*, but that very Morning that the Earl was *Murthered*, will, no doubt very much augment the Suspition of future Ages; and it will be as odly looked upon, that when Letters and Proposals were sent to some great Persons near the King, *That if his Majesty would but grant a Pardon to Two or Three Men that should be named, when the Favour was granted, the whole Mystery of the Contrivance should be discovered, and the Contrivers and Actors be particularly detected*; such a Proposal should be slighted and neglected.

Now, after all these Tricks and Stratagems of the King, to introduce Tyranny and Slavery, to stifle the *Popish Plot*, by throwing it upon his Protestant Subjects; after such an obstinate and stedfast Conjunction with the Sworn Enemy of the Nation, the *French* King, for the Subversion of our Laws,

Laws, Liberties, and Religion; after so many Slights and Contempts to put upon the grand Council of the Kingdom, which he never assembled, but to empty and drain the Purses of the Nation. But to shut the Door against all Objections that can be made in his behalf, there is one proof yet remaining behind, which must be an undeniable convincement to all the World, of the Truth of what has been hitherto said, as standing still recorded under his own Hand, if the Original of the Instructions be extant, and that is the following Memorial of his Ambassador to the King of *Poland*, in the Year, 1667.

Most Illustrious Prince,

THE King, my Master, has Commanded me to let Your Majesty know the Resolutions he has taken in All Points, to concur with the most Christian King, in giving your Majesty all possible Assistance for the Establishing your Majesty's Title in such ways as your Majesty shall think most Effectual for the securing your Crown and Dignity, and further Honour of your Queen and Royal Issue. The King, my Master, being truly sensible of the great Misfortunes of those Princes whose Power must be bounded, and Reason regulated by the Fantastick Humour of their Subjects. 'Till Princes can be freed from these Inconveniencies, The King, my Master, sees no possible prospect of establishing the Roman Catholick *Religion.*

If this be not enough to discover his Inclinations, and the whole drift of his intriguing Reign, there can be nothing sharp enough to penetrate the stupid and besotted Bigottry of those that stand in his Justification. But notwithstanding the willful blin-

blindneſs of ſuch People, it is to be hoped, that other Men, leſs byaſſed, and having the ſame juſt pretences to common Underſtanding, have a greater value for their Reaſon, than to forfeit it to prejudice, and an Intereſt now exploded by all the ſober part of the World: And having once diſintangled their Judgments from the Incumbrances of *Jure Divino Nonſenſe*, they will then find, That the whole courſe of his Reign was no more than what this Memorial diſcovers; and that the frequent Breaches of his Word and Promiſes, both to his Parliaments and People, were but the Effects of the Religion he profeſſed, and owned in his Ambaſſadors Memorial; one of the chief Principles of which it is, *Not to keep Faith with Hereticks*; and by which he was obliged to be more faithful to the King of *Poland*, than the King of *Heaven*. Hence it was, that notwithſtanding his Declaration at *Breda*, deſign'd and penn'd to obtrude a ſeeming appearance of Truth, and ſpecious Face of Integrity upon the Nation; after he came to be reſtored and ſettled, we found our ſelves deceiv'd in all that we expected from the Faith and Credit of his Royal Word. To which we may ſubjoin that other Famous Declaration, upon ſhutting up the Exchequer: Wherein, tho his Sacred Word and Royal Faith, were, in plain and emphatical Terms, laid to pledge for Repayment; yet the Events in the Ruine and Impoveriſhing of ſo many Families, did no way conſiſt with his Gracious and Solemn Promiſes,

As for the Covenant, whatever the Oath were, it matters not here to diſpute; but they who were Witneſſes of his taking it, obſerved, that if ever he ſeemed ſincere in what he did, it was in binding his Soul by that Solemn Oath; and yet he not only openly and avowedly broke it, but cauſed it

to

to be burnt in all the Three Nations, by the hands of the Common-Hang-man. Where can we find a more matchless piece of Dissimulation, than in his Signing that Declaration in *Scotland*, which he published under the Title of, *A Declaration of the King's Majesty, to his Subjects of the Kingdom of* Scotland, England *and* Ireland.

Charles *the II. having long trifled with the Papists, his beloved Friends, and indeed had so carried himself, that neither Papist nor Protestant could tell what to make of him; yet the Papists resolved they would be no longer dallied with by him: And therefore, so soon as he had made all Things ready for his Brother's Exaltation; after he had prevented his Exclusion from the Throne, and put all the Power of his Dominions into his hands, to give way for him that truly Reigned, while he but only wore the Name of King, he was struck with an* Appoplexy, *as it was given out, (for let the true Cause be what it will, a Prince always dies of some Disease or other in the Physicians Catalogue) but such were the Circumstances of his Death, that Men began to discover their Suspitions freely to the World, before he was cold. However it were, certain it is, that he was Absolved from all his Sins, by his great Friend* John Huddleston; *and that the Priests gave him Extream Unction. At what time, one of his Relations forcing his way into the Room, and seeing them at it, could not forbear saying,* That now they had Oyl'd and Greas'd his Boots, they had made him fit for his Journey. *And this is yet more remarkable, That all the while he lay upon his Death-Bed, he never spoke to his Brother, to put him in mind of preserving the Laws and Religion of his People: but only recommended to him the Charitable Care of his Two Concubines,* Portsmouth, *and poor* Nelly,

Nor was it a small Aggravation of the general Suspition, to find him hurried to his Grave, with such

on Ungrateful Secrecy, in the dead of the Night, as if they had feared the Arresting of his Corps for Debt, not so much as the mean pomp of the Blue-Coat Boys Sing him to Heaven. Insomuch, that he was buried, by his Brother, whom he had so highly obliged, with far less decency then was permitted for the Funeral of his Father, by his Capital Enemies that had beheaded him. But that perhaps might be so ordered by Providence, to signifie that he was not worth the publick Lamentation of the People, whose Religion and Liberties he had been always designing to subvert.

THE

THE SECRET HISTORY OF King *JAMES* II.

TO him succeeded *James* the II. not more pernitiously defining, but more eagerly bent in the Chase of National Ruine and Destruction. He came into *England* full freighted with his Mothers Religion, and her Malice to the People of the Nation; but wore at first the same Vizard Mask of Protestantism which his Brother did. But tho he were fitter for the Business they both designed, yet he understood not how to manage it so well; so that had he been the Elder Brother, we may undoubtedly presume to say, he would have been much sooner thrown out of the Saddle, greatly to the saving both the Honour and Treasure of the Nation, and the Life of many a worthy Gentleman, and true Lover of his Country.

'Tis well known, and a thing confirmed by Two Letters yet to be seen, wherein one of the Kings own Chaplains, then upon the spot when it was done, imparts and laments it to a Bishop. *That the*

Duke of York, *while he was yet but very young, made a ſolemn Renunciation of the Proteſtant Religion, and was reconciled to the Church of* Rome, *while he ſojourned with his Mother in* France, *in hopes* (by the aſſiſtance of the Papiſts) *to have defeated his Elder Brother of his Right of Inheritance, tho he had all the Indulgence imaginable to conceal his Convulſion, where it might be for his private Advantage, and the general good of the Cauſe.*

And ſo early was this Ambition of his to ſupplant his Elder Brother, that when the *Scots* were treating with the exil'd King, to reſtore him to the Throne of *Scotland*, That he was at that very time practiſing with ſuch as remained faithful to the King's Title here, that they would renounce his Elder Brother, and chuſe him for their Sovereign. And for that Reaſon it was that the Duke forſook him at *Bruxels*, and withdrew into *Holland*; ſo that the King was neceſſitated, not only to command him upon his Allegiance to return, but was conſtrained to ſend the Duke of *Ormond*, and ſome other Perſons of Quality, as well to threaten as perſuade him, before he would go back.

And as he was an early Traytor to his Brother; ſo he did no leſs treacherouſly attempt the diſowning of his firſt Wife. For finding her extraordinary Chaſtity to be ſuch, that he could not be admitted to her Bed, but upon the lawful ſcore of Matrimony; he was at laſt Married to her, but ſo very privately, that only the King, and ſome very few Friends were privy to it: After which, perceiving that his Brother's Reſtauration was fully determined in *England*, under pretence that it would be more for his own, and the Honour and Intereſt of his Brother, to Marry with ſome great Princeſs, that would both enrich and ſtrengthen them by the largeneſs of her Dowry, and the greatneſs of her Re-

Relations, he would have taken an Occasion from the privacy of the Nuptials, to deny her being his Wife and disavow all Contracts and Ceremonies of Marriage between them: But the King detesting so much baseness, as being himself a witness of the Marriage, would not suffer the Lady to be so heinously abused; but constrained him, after great reluctancy, to declare it publickly to all the World A happy Providence for *England*, which by that Conjunction blest us with two *Protestant* Princesses, matchless in Virtue and Piety, and all those other Graces that adorn their Sex; to the eldest of which we are beholden for our Deliverance from an Inundation of Slavery and Popery, under the Auspicious Conduct of a Sovereign, truly meriting the Noble and Ancient Titles of *King of Men*, and *Shepherd of the People*, and the yet more dignified Addition of *Defender of the Faith*. And from the youngest of which we have already the earnest of a hopeful Issue to guard us from the like Invasions. Such is the Provision of Providence, that many times it happens, the most venemous Creatures carry about them the particular Antidote against their own Poysons.

Certain it is, that the Duke of *York*, would never have pulled off his Protestant Vizard, nor have declared himself of the *Roman* Communion so soon, had he not been thereto necessitated by a Stratagem of the King his Brother; for the Papists having a long time waited for the Accomplishment of the King's Oathes and Promises for restoring their Religion; and having annually contributed large Sums of Money towards the effecting of it, at length grew impatiently sullen. and would advance no more, unless the King, or the Duke, would openly declare themselves for Popery: Which the King thinking no way seasonable for him to do,

and not being able by all his Arguments and Importunities to prevail with his Brother to do it, he (at length) bethought himself of this Project, which was, To get the Queen to write a Letter, intimating her Intention to withdraw into a Monastery; which Letter was to be left upon her Closet-Table, that her Priests, as it was concerted before-hand, might there seize it, and seeing the Contents of it, carry it forthwith to the Duke. Upon which, the Duke being Jealous lest the King, upon the Queens relinquishing her Husband, might be induced to marry again, and thereby deprive him of the hopes of succeeding, than which there was nothing which he thirsted after more, upon obtaining a previous Assurance, that in case he declared himself a Papist, she would not withdraw, immediately pulled off his Mask, and renounced Communion with the Church of *England*.

Being thus quit of his fears from the King, his next work was to did himself of all his Jealousies of the Duke of *Monmouth*. To which purpose he lay day and night at the King, to require him to turn Roman Catholick. Which the King out of his Tenderness to the *Romish* Cause, as well as to gratifie his Brother, undertook to do, and accordingly sent him into *France*, with an express Command to reconcile himself to the Church of *Rome*: However, the Duke of *Monmouth*, out of an aversion to the Fopperies of that Religion, failed in his Performance; which so incensed the Duke of *York*, that from that time forward he studied all the ways imaginable to bring him to Destruction.

In

In the mean time, having by his publickly declaring himself a Papist, engaged all those of the same Religion, to his Person and Interest, he resolved to drive on *Jehu* like, and to promote the Catholick Cause, with all the vigour and swiftness he was able, and to make the utmost use of his Brothers good Intentions. And such was his Bigottry to the *Romish* Church, That according to the Principles of that Religion, he stuck at nothing *per fas & nefas*, to bring about his Popish Designs.

I shall not here dilate upon his secret Negotiations at *Rome*, his Correspondencies with Foreign Priests and Jesuites, or his private Intrigues with the *French* King, which have been all sufficiently exposed already in Print; as for that whatever has been already said of the King, is also to be said of him in general, while he was Duke, in regard they both drew in the same Yoak, for the Ruine of the Nation. For this is as certain as the rest, that he had a most eager desire to Rule, and Rule dispotically, which was the Reason he was frequently heard to say. *He had rather Reign one Month as the King of* France, *than Twenty Years as his Brother the King of* England *did*. And besides, it was as plain, That he had a mortal Antipathy against the Protestant Religion, and more particularly against the Professors of it in *England*; but more especially the Dissenters, upon the score of revenging his Fathers Death. An imbittered hatred, which he derived from his Mother, who mortally malliced *England* upon the same Account, and which he acknowledged in his Bed-Chamber, at St. *James's*, where he openly declared, That he was resolved to be revenged upon the *English* Nation for his Fathers Death. Which if those unthinking People, who are so eager to have him again, would

but consider, they would not be so forward for his Return. For it is in vain for the Church of *England*-Men, of what degree soever, to think that their refusing to swear Allegiance to King *William* and Queen *Mary*, would excuse them from that Universal Revenge which he would take upon the Nation, were it ever again in his Power.

Only here was the Difference between the Two Brothers, That the King thought to ruine his Enemy by main force, and the fair hand of Victory; but the Duke hoping to kill two Birds with one Stone, made it his business, at the same time, to ruine the Enemy by force, and his own Country by treachery. Thus when he had engaged his Brother in the first Holy *Dutch* War, of the Extirpation of *Heretick*s, he permits the *English*, at first, to exercise all the Bravery of their Skill and Courage, to a great probability of Success: but then falls asleep in the height of his Conduct, to the end, the *Dutch* (for want of Orders) might have an opportunity to wrest the Victory out of the hands of the *English*, on purpose to keep the ballance of Destruction on both sides even. Thus he permitted himself to be surpriz'd at *Soul-Bay*, knowing there were enough to maul the Enemy, but not enough to preserve those that fought on our side. So that the *Dutch* may be said to be well thrashed, and the *English* to be well sacrificed. And as a farther Demonstration of his perfidious Soul; when he found the Contest would be too tedious between two Nations so well matched, it was the Dukes Contrivance to Suborn and Bribe two indigent and desperate Villains, to go over and Fire the *Dutch* Ships, as they lay in their Harbours, and when he had done that, it was the same Treachery, that with a sham story lulled his Brother asleep, and procured the Firing of our Ships at *Chatham*.

The

The burning of *London* was such a matchless piece, as could not have entered into the Breast of any but a bejesuited *Herostratus*, in hopes to purchase the infamous immortality of a *Popish Saintship*, by reducing to Ashes, the graetest Bulwark and Magazine of the Protestant Religion in *Europe*. *Rome* was set on Fire by *Nero*, to have re-built it again more Glorious. and that he might have space enough for one of the most sumptuous Pallaces so designed, under the Sun; thereby to have made the Mistress of the Earth, the Wonder of the World: But *London* was Fired, not only to destroy the Wealth and Habitations of the City, never to have risen more, but with an intention to extirpate the Inhabitants themselves to boot, and to have turned the Venerable and Spacious Pile into a depopulated Wilderness, by a general Massacre of the People, under the Consternation of the spreading Flames. The standing Streets provided and furnished with Incendiaries, with fresh Materials to revive and restore the weary Conflagration, and when taken in the Act, rescued out of the Hands of those that seized them, and sent to St. *James's*, to be there secured from the Rage of the Multitude, and then dismissed without Persecution. An excellent way to have made all sure, by mixing the Blood of the Inhabitants with the Ashes of their Dwellings, the only Cement which the Papists believed would fasten and bind the Fabrick of the *Romish* Church; and what greater piece of Perfidy could there be, than while the Duke was riding about the Streets, under Pretence of Assisting to quench the Fire, that his Guards were, at the same time, employed to prevent the People from removing their Goods; and his Palace made the Refuge of such as were taken in the very Fact of cherishing and fomenting the Flames! This the Committee

tee of Parliament trac'd so far, that it cost the Life of the poor Gentleman that gave the Information of these Things, to the Chair man of the Committee, to prevent any further Discovery, and secure the D. from the Danger of his Life.

Coleman's crying out, *There was no Faith in Man*, was a most undeniable Testimony of the Treachery of his Master, notwithstanding all the faithful Service he had done him; and was it not a Magnanimous and generous Act of a *Prince*, to betray, as he did, to the Gallows, not only his most trusty Servant, but his Fellow Partner in the Conspiracy?

More Inhumane still was the barbarous Murder, actually contriv'd, and brought to perfection, by the encourag'd Instruments of the Duke. For he it was that sent word to *Coleman*, to bid him take no care, for that Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey* should be remov'd out of the way, and at the same time took the like care that his Servant *Coleman* should follow him: For it was Detection that he feared, and the Duke well knew that the Dead could never tell Tales. The Particulars of the Murder, and how far the Circumstances of it reached the Duke, are too fresh in Memory to be here inserted; and Dispensation for Deeds of the blackest hew, were so easily obtained, that it was no wonder the Duke so little boggled at a single Murder, to conceal the Designs of general Massacres, wherein he was engag'd.

In pursuance of which, he was no less industrious to bring the *Presbyterians*, and all the *Dissenting Protestants*, within the Snare of his Sham-Plot, in order to the Destruction of Thousands of innocent Persons.

This, *Dangerfield* discovered to the World, and his Information taken upon Oath, before Sir *William Roberts*, and Sir *William Poultney*, are extant; wherein he gives an Account of his being introduced

ced several times, into the Duke of *York*'s Presence. Particularly, that being once among the rest, admitted to the Duke of *York*'s Closet at *White-Hall*, he kissed his Hand upon his Knees: And then being taken up by the Duke, he gave him a little Book, containing the whole *Scheme* of the *Presbyterian Plot*, for which the Duke thank'd him, as also for his diligence to the Catholick Cause, and wishing good Success to his Undertakings; added these words: *That the Presbyterian Plot was a thing of most mighty Consequence; and I do not question, but the Effects of it will answer our Expectation; especially, in the Northern Parts, where I am well assured, the Major part of the Gentry are my Friends, and have given sufficient Demonstrations to me, as also of their Intentions to prosecute this Prescyterian Plot, for they are no Strangers to the Design.*

At the same time, he ordered *Dangerfield* to be very careful of what he communicated to the Persons who were to be Witnesses in that new *Plot*, lest he should be caught in the Subordination, and so bring a terrible Odium upon the Catholicks, and make himself uncapable of any further Service.

Then for Encouragement in the Prosecution of the Sham Plot, the Duke promised, that he would take Care that Money should not be wanting, and ordered him, with all the Expedition the Thing would allow, to make a Discovery to the King. At the same time, the Duke also made divers Vows, and bitter Execrations to stand by him in the Thing, and engaged upon his Honour, to be his Rewarder; and, in earnest, give him Twenty Guineas, with his own Hand; and telling him withal, what a great Reputation he had gained among the Catholicks, and that in a short time he should see the Catholick Religion flourish in these Kingdoms; with a great deal more to the same purpose.

Of the truth of which, among many others, there could not be a more convincing Proof, than the bitter Enmity which the Duke bore to *Dangerfield* after his Discovery; and the severe Usage which he received from *Jefferies*, the Duke's Creature, and the Rhadamantine Dispenser of his Revenges.

In *Scotland* he Rul'd, or rather Reign'd, though in his Brother's Life-time, with a more Arbitrary and Lawless Controul. And there it was that he breath'd forth his Venome against the *Protestants*, utter'd his Tyrannous Maximes with more freedom, and exercised his Tyranny with a more boundless and exorbitant Extravagance. For there it was, that he first undertook to exercise the power of Soveraign Rule, refusing to take the Oath of High Commissioner, which the Law of the Country required, as here he had denied to take the Test; and to shew how he intended to Govern *England*, when it came to his turn, there it was, that in the hearing of Persons of great Credit, he had this worthy Apothegm, *That tho' in* England *the Lawyers ruled the Court, yet in* Scotland *he would rule the Lawyers*. There is was that he positively denied to give the Parliament any security for the Preservation of their Religion, in case he succeeded to the Crown. And being told of the Terms that the King had offered to the Parliament of *England*, tho' much harder and more dishonourable than any which they required, he replied, That the King never intended any such Limitations should pass; nor did he offer them, but when he knew they would not be accepted. And farther, to demonstrate his imbitter'd hatred of the *Protestants*, and with what Rage and Fury *he intended* to prosecute them, he told several Members of the Parliament, when they

they were endeavouring to get some Bills to pass for the Security of their Religion, in case of a *Popish* Successor, *That whatever they intended, or prepared against the Papists, should light upon others.* Which, tho' it stopt him from taking the Advantage of any new Bills, yet he was so just to his Word, in behalf of the *Papists*, that he pour'd all the Rigour of the Penal Laws against the *Papists*, upon the Protestants in that Kingdom, under the Name of Dissenters, whom he *Persecuted* with that insatiable Violence, as if according to his own Expression, he had fully concluded, That it would never be well with *Scotland*, till all the South-side of *Ferth* were made a Hunting-Field. For indeed that was the true intent and drift of all his envenom'd Prosecutions of those *People*, as well in *England*, as in *Scotland*, in hopes by so severe an Exasperation, they would have broken out into open Rebellion, and so have given him a fair opportunity to have rooted them from the Earth by the Sword: Which was evident from another Saying of his; for that having one day given his Opinion of sober Dissenters, and setting them forth, as he thought, in their Colours, he concluded, *That if he might have his VViſh, he would have them all turn Rebels, and betake themselves to Arms.* Which, tho' it shewed his good Will yet whether it were so prudently spoken by a *Person* that had so little, either of Courage or Conduct as himself, is a question, unless he thought he cou'd subdue them with the Spiritual Weapons of the *Popes* Excommunications and Curses: Nor did he at the same time remember that the heavy Oppressions of the *Spanish* Inquisition, tore from the Dominions of the *Spaniard* all the Seven United Provinces, notwithstanding all that *D'Alva*,

va, *Parma*, and *Spinola* could do, though their Military Fame far exceeded his.

Thus we have seen the extent of his Christianity; which we find cooped up within the narrow bounds of Popery. Now for his Morality, which if it signalize it self in any Virtue that celebrates a Great and Glorious Prince, it must be in those two, of Justice and Mercy, which God appropriates most nearly to himself, as the brightest Ornaments of his Divinity: But whether the Duke were either Just or Merciful to the E. of *Argyle* will be the Question. This Gentleman was one of the most Ancient, and one of the most eminent Noble-men in *Scotland*, and a Person of extraordinary Endowments, and, as such a one had served the King with his Parts, his Person, and Estate, beyond what most Men of any Degree in the Nation, either had done, or were able to perform; but because he would not so far comply with, and oblige the Duke, as to fall in with his Councils, for the Establishment of Popery, and yield himself an Instrument to carry on his Designs of Popery and Arbitrary Power, his Head must be brought to the Block, the antient Honour of his Family must be attainted, and his ample Fortunes be confiscated. To which purpose, a certain Test being fram'd for all the Nobility and Gentry of *Scotland* to take, not excepting all others who were capable of any Office or Employment in the Kingdom, easie enough for the Papists to swallow, as being Calculated for their peculiar Advantage; but difficult for the Protestants, as being that which strangely confused and intangled their Consciences. However, the Earl was not so scrupulous neither, to avoid all Occasions possible of incurring his Highness's Displeasure, but offered to take it, with this *Proviso* That he might declare in what sence he

was

was willing to be Sworn. Accordingly he did draw up an Explanation of his own meaning; and tho' he were allow'd to take the Oath according to that Explanation, which was also conformable to an Explanation, which themselves were forced to make for the satisfaction of the greatest part of the Kingdom, that was dissatisfied in the Oath, as well as the Earl; nay, tho' his Lordship did take it according to his own allowed Interpretation, which was so far accepted, that he was admitted to take his place in the Council; yet upon a *Caprio* of the Duke's Justice, the matter was call'd in question again; but then such a horrid Treasons were pick'd out of the Earl's Interpretation, that he was Arraign'd, and Condemn'd to lose his Head; and Execution had been certainly done, had he not made his escape in his Sister's Habit, but a few hours before the Express Arrived from *England*. with Orders for his immediate Execution: Nevertheless, his whole Estate was seiz'd, he was divested of all his Titles and Dignities; and contrary to the Custom of the Kingdom, his Coat of Arms was despitefully torn at the Publick Market Cross of *Edinburgh*, and his Person hunted after in all places, whether they thought he might be withdrawn, even as far as *Hamburgh*. And yet after all the scrutinies which sober Men have made, the chiefest of the *Scots* Lawyers, that were of unbiassed Principles, could never find any thing in the Earl's Interpretation, but what his indispensible Duty obliged him to, both as a *Christian*, a Subject of *Scotland*, and a Privy-Counsellor to the King. But the D. was resolved to destroy him right or wrong: And therefore being told what the E. of *Argyle* had said or done, which could be made a Crime by the Law of the Land, his Highness, out of the great Affection which he bore to

so true a *Protestant Peer*, was pleas'd to reply; *But may it not be wrested to Treason?* Which was such an Incouragement, that when his Mind was once understood, he wanted not Instruments that labour'd Day and Night to make the Question subservient to the D.'s impatient Thirst of Revenge, and their own Advantage; or else it might be to signalize his Resolution to *over-rule the Lawyers in* Scotland, had they denied their Submission to his good Will and Pleasure.

By the same Justice it was that *Blackwood* was Condemn'd, upon a pretence of having entertain'd upon his Ground certain Persons, who were reported, and said to have been at *Bothwell-Bridge*. And this, although there had been no notice given of their being Criminals, or any ways Offenders; nor any Proclamations were issued out against them, by which *Blackwood* could be obliged to take Cognizance of the Circumstances they lay under; and that which aggravated the Injustice was this, That the Gentleman suffered after a General Act of Indemnity granted, and that it was after the Council themselves had for Four Years pass'd them by, that either the Persons whom he had reliev'd came to be accus'd, or he to be prosecuted upon this account.

And by the same Justice it was, that Mr. *Robert Bailzie*, of *Jerismond*, was Hanged, and Quartered for a Crime, of which he had been Impeached and Tryed before the Council, and fined Six Thousand Pounds Sterling. And all this his Highness did by *over-ruling* the Lawyers of *Scotland*, by which means he had made the Judges and Jury as malicious against the Protestants, and as Revengeful against the Asserters of the Liberties of *Scotland*, as himself. Such Exorbitancies of Injustice and Arbitrary Power, that his Brother could never have

have endured in a Subject, had they not been acted all along with his Knowledge and Consent.. Otherwise, had not the King been strangely infatuated, to believe, that whatever his Brother did, was for the Advancement of that Cause, to which he was so well effected himself, he could never have been so un-apprehensive of the Danger he was in, from a Brother so actually in a Conspiracy against his Life: For which Reason he was, by the E. of *Shaftsbury*, said, to be *a Prince, not to be paralell'd in History.* For certainly, besides the early Tryal which the King had of his Ambition beyond Sea, he had a fair warning of the hasty Advances which he made to his Throne in a short time after his *Marriage* to the Queen: For no sooner was it discovered, the Queen was unlikely to have any Issue by the King, but he and his Party made Proclamation of it to the World, and that he was the certain Heir.

He takes his Seat in *Parliament*, as Prince of *Wales*, with his Guards about him: He assumes the Princes Lodgings at *White-Hall*, his Guards upon the same place, without any intermission between him and the King; so that the King was in his Hands and Power every Night. All Offices and Preferments are bestowed upon him, and at his Disposition, not a Bishop made without him. After this, he changes his Religion to make a *Party*, and such a *Party*, that his Brother must before to die, and be made away to make room for him. And for the undeniable Proof of all this, at length the Plot breaks out, headed by the Duke, his Interest and Design.

Plain it was, that where-ever he came, he endeavour'd to remove all Obstacles to his intended Designs out of the way. And therefore, some there are who attribute the Extremity of the Duke's ri-

gour towards the Earl of *Argyle*, to the great Authority which the Earl had in some part of the High-Lands, and the Awe which he had over the Papists, as being Lord Justiciary in those parts, and his being able upon any occasion to check and bridle the Marq. of *Huntly*, now Duke of *Gourdon*, from attempting the Disturbance of the Publick Peace, or the prejudice of the *Protestants*. However, this is observable, That notwithstanding the height of severity, which was extended to him, there was as much favour shewn the Lord *Macdonald*; whose invading the Shire of *Argyle* with an Armed Force, meerly because he was required by the said Earl, as being given him for what he did; though when the Council sent a Herald to him, to require him to disband his Forces, he caused his Coat to be torn from his Back, and sent him back to *Edinburgh* with all the Marks, both of Contempt of themselves, and Disgrace to the Publick Officer. But his Religion was sufficient to attone at that time for his Treason.

And now the Duke, having a standing Army of Five Thousand Foot, and Five Hundred Horse in *Scotland*, at his Devotion, as well as in *England*, and the *Parliament*, the main Object of his Hatred, and his Fear; being dissolved, back he returns into *England*; where, under the shelter of his Brother's Authority, he began in a short time to exert his Tyrannous Disposition, and play the same unjust and Arbitrary Pranks, as he had done in *Scotland*; and because it was not seasonable yet to make use of Armed Forces, he set his *Westminster-Hall* Red-Coats, like *Pioneers* before a Marching Army, to level the way for Popery and Arbitrary Controul, to march in over the ruined Estates, and murder'd Bodies of their Opposers. The *Judges* were his Slaves, the *Juries* at his beck; nothing could

could withstand him; the Law it self grows lawless, and *Jefferies* ridden, plays the Debaushee, like himself. Justice, or something in her likeness, Swaggers, Hectors, Whips, Imprisons, Fines, Draws, Hangs and Quarters. and Beheads all that come near her, under the Duke's displeasure. Alderman *Pilkington*, the Late Honourable Lord Mayor, for standing up for the Rights and Liberties of the City, and for refusing to pack a Jury to take away the Earl of *Shaftsbury*'s Life, is Prosecuted upon a *Scandalum Magnatum*, at the Suit of the Duke, Convicted and Condemned in a Verdict of an Hundred Thousand Pounds. And Sir *Patience Ward*, for offering to confront the suborn'd Witnesses, is Indicted of Perjury, for which, he was forced to fly to *Utretcht*, to avoid the Infamy of the Pillory; though in all his Dealings so well known to be a Person of that Justice and Integrity, that for all the hopes of the Duke, he would not have told an untruth. Sir *Samuel Bernardiston*, for two or three treacherously intercepted Letters to his Friends in the Countrey, fin'd ten thousand pounds, which he was not suffered to discharge by *Quarterly Payments*, but the Estate seized by the Duke's Sollicitors, to the end he might have an opportunity to be the more prodigal in the wake of it.

But this hunting after the Lives, as well as the Estates of others, was more intollerable, and that be the prostituted Testimony of suborn'd *Irish* Rogues and Vagabonds; and when that would not take the desired Effect, by the forced Evidence of Persons, ensnared and shackled under the Terrors of Death, till the drudgery of Swearing was over. Men so fond of Life, that they bought the uncertain prolongation of a wicked Mortality, at the unhollowed price of certain and

immortal Infamy. And therefore, not knowing how to die, when they knew not how to live, accounted it a more gainful Happineſs to quit the Pardon of Heaven's Tribunal for the Broad Seal of *England*.

By this means fell the Vertuous Lord *Ruſſell*, a Sacrifice to the *Bill of Excluſion*, and the Duke's Reveege; and yet of that Integriry to his Country, and untainted courſe of Life, of whom never any ſpoke evil, but thoſe that knew no evil in him; only becauſe he was one of thoſe who ſought to exclude the Duke from the hopes of Tyranny and Oppreſſion, the Duke was reſolv'd to exclude him from the Earth.

But then comes the Murther of the Earl of *Eſſex*, for that it was a moſt Barbarous and Inhumane Murther, committed by Bravo's, and bloody Ruffians, ſet on, hired, and encouraged by potent Malice and Cruelty, the pregnant Circumſtances, no leſs corroborated by Teſtimonies, wanting only the confirmation of Legal Judicature, has been already ſo clearly made out, that there is no place left for a heſitating belief. A Truth ſo conſpicuous, as ſtands in defiance of the Ridiculing Pen of *R. L'Eſtrange*, to ſham it over with the Buffoonry of his bantering Acquirements, it cannot be imagined, but that ſo black a Deed of Darkneſs, was carried on by the Contrivers, with all the Secreſie that could be ſtudied, by Humane Wit. But never yet was Humane Wit ſo circumſpective, but that the moſt conceal'd of Villanies have been detected, by ſtrange and little Accidents, which all the Foreſight of Humane *Sagacity* could never prevent. More eſpecially, after ſuch a curious Inquiſition, and ſo much Labour and Induſtry, purſuing the Cry of this innocent Noble-man's Blood. Both the Circumſtances and Depoſitions, beſides the Declarations

rations of others, ready to depose, are made publick at large to the World, and therefore to omit the long-since sifted, and winnoed Contradictions of the Witnesses, that were made use of, to prove the Earl a *Felo de se*; there are three things since discovered, that carry a strong Conviction with them, of another sort of Murder, in the new Deposition of *Dorothy Smith*, detecting the Motives, the Author and Contriver, the Resolution taken to murder a Noble Protestant Earl, the manner concluded, and the joy of those Infatuated Bigots, when the Deed was penetrated; and all this over-heard by the Maid, at the Meeting of one *Lovet*, and several other Persons, privy to the *Plot*, in the House of one *Holmes*, whom she then served, a Trusty Papist, seated in a by-corner of the Town, and where they thought themselves, for that Reason, in the greatest safety in the World.

This Meeting was Nine Days before the Earl's Death, where after they had vomitted out their Malice against the Earl, in the opprobrious Terms of Villany and Dog, and laden him with Curses, it was said, *That he knew so much of their Designs, and was so very averse to their Interest, that unless he were taken off, they should never carry them on.* Inducements, which, as they had carried off Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey* before, might be as easily admitted for the Destruction of a more considerable Obstacle; more especially harboured in the Breasts of Men, that make it peculiar propagate their Religion by Blood and Massacre.

Therefore, to remove this great Obstruction out of the way, their great Oracle, the Duke of *York*, was consulted; who, after some Meditations, was for Poysoning the Earl: But his Highness being told, that manner of Death would not look well:

There

There was another; who propoſed to his Highneſs, that he might be ſtabbed; but that not being approved of neither, at length his Highneſs concluded, and ordered his Throat ſhould be cut, and promiſed to be there when it was done.

To all which, there needs no other Comment, but that the Earl's Throat was cut ſoon after, and that the Duke was in the *Tower*, ſeparated from the King; and cloſe by the Earl's Lodging, when the Murder was committed.

After this, the Maid goes on, and depoſes, *That three days after, the ſame Perſons met in the ſame Houſe, and declared; That the Cutting the Earl's Throat was concluded on, but that it was to be given out, that he had done it himſelf, and that if any ſhould deny it, they would take them up, and puniſh them for it.* All which being ſpoken, as a thing contriv'd before the Fact was done, and verified in every particular after it was committed, are Circumſtances that would hardly be wreſtled with before Impartial Judges, at an *Old-Baily* Seſſions; where it would be alſo conſidered, that the terrible Proſecution of *Braddon*, for making Enquiry into the Murder, came all from *White-Hall*, under the Management of Court-Injuſtice and Corruption.

But laſtly, the Maid ſwears, *That the ſame day the Earl died, the ſame Perſons met again at her Maſters Houſe, and fell a Caparing about the Room for Joy; at which time one of them ſtriking her Maſter upon the Back, cry'd,* The Feat was done; *upon which,* Holmes *demanding, whether the Earl's Throat was cut, the other anſwered,* Yes, *and added withal, That he could not but laugh to think how like a Fool the Earl look'd, when they came to cut his Throat:* Whereupon *Holmes* asking whether his Highneſs was there, the other replied, *Yes.*

With

With which agreed the Informations of several Soldiers, that about a quarter of an Hour before the Earl's Death was discovered, observed the Duke to separate from the King; at what time he beckned to two Persons, who coming to him, he sent them to the Earl's Lodging, from whence they returned smiling, in less than a quarter of an hour, and told him the business was done, as one of them more particularly declared; for which particular knowledge of his, he was afterward sent out of the World.

Nor was the Information of the Woman less to be heeded, who informs, That *as she was walking, a little before the Earls Death, before the Chamber Window, she heard a very great trampling and bustling in the Earl's Chamber, saw three or four Heads move close together, and heard a loud and doleful cry of Murder.* And whereas *Floyd*, the Sentinal denied at *Braddon's* Tryal, the letting of any Men into the Earl's Lodgings before his Death, yet afterwards with great remorse of Conscience, he confessed that he did let in Two or Three Men by the Special Order of *Hawley*, the Warder.

It will be an un-accountable thing to Posterity, that the E. of *S.* should so readily part with his Money to *Holland*, suspected to be one of the Bloody Ruffians, when-ever he went or sent for it, though a profligate, at the same time convicted in *Newgate* for Robbery upon the High-way.

It will also seem as strange, that *Webster*, an Under-Bayliff of St. *Katherines*, and an indigent Ale-Draper, should of a sudden be Master of Five Hundred Pounds, at such an unlucky nick of Time, as immediately after the Earl's Murder.

But

But I forbear to enlarge any further upon a Theme already so labouriously discussed, and Publick to the World. Only this is to be added, That it might seem strange, that after the Murder was done, such Care should be taken, and such strict Command given for the conveying the News to the *Old-Baily*, till we hear to what end it was done, by the King's Counsel snapping so quickly at it, as if they had had their Lesson before, and improving it with all their Eloquence, to the Destruction of the Lord *Russell*. Nor is it unlikely, that *Jefferies* might be either privy to the Design in some measure at that time, or else be more fully acquainted with it in order to *Braddon*'s Tryal. More especially, if it be true, which is confidently reported, That his Lordship being at some publick Place, where he took an occasion to speak largely, in praise of the deceased King, when he had done *However*, (said he) whispering a Gentleman in the Ear, *Had he liv'd Six Months longer, we had been all Hang'd, notwithstanding my* Encomiums.

The Discovery of which Alteration of the King, by a severe Expression which drop't from his Lips upon reading a Letter from a Lord, who eat his last Meal with the Duke, and wrote the same on his Death Bed, as it seems to be confirmed by this Saying of *Jefferies*, so it was by many concluded to be the occasion of hastning the King's Death. Concerning which, the Opinions of the World are various, and some severe, and bearing hard enough upon his Successor: But in regard it is a Mystery, as the *Embrio* of Conjecture, which is only to be matur'd in the Womb of Time, and to be Midwiv'd into the World by future Discovery, we leave it to higher Scrutiny. The Justice of Heaven, perhaps not minding a present

Revenge

Revenge of his Death, who had not only prevented the Profecution of Noble and Innocent *Eſſex*'s Blood, but ſo ſeverely puniſhed the Induſtrious Enquiry after it, only this is further to be mark'd, that the *Iriſh* Papiſts could for ſome time before, fix upon the utmoſt Period of his Reign, and the Duke was ſent for in haſte out of *Scotland*, without any apparent Reaſon for it; beſides that the King's Permiſſion was obtain'd with ſome difficulty.

However, by the violent and tremendous Death of his Brother, he at length arrived at the long long wiſhed for Heaven of his Ambitious Deſires; and beholds himſelf mounted upon the *Pinicle* of Royalty, only that his Fall might be more conſpicuous.

He was no ſooner Proclaimed, but he declared his Religion openly to his Privy Council; however, he began with a mild and careſſing Declaration, which he afterwards broke in every Line of it: A meer Trap, baited with Indulgence to Tender Conſciences, on purpoſe to catch the Diſſenting Mice, to deliver them, when caught, into the Paws of his ravenous Popiſh Cats; but no ſooner was he Crown'd; but as if his Coronation-Oath, and all his Promiſes ſo lately made, had been no more than ſo many Pills of *Opium*, and believing himſelf environed with Power, ſufficient to maintain his Tyranny and Oppreſſion, he invades *Property*, by Expulſion of the right Owners; tramples upon the Laws by his pretended Prerogative of ſuſpending Power, and goes about to pull down the ſtately Structure of the Proteſtant Religion, by the Suſpenſion of one, and impriſoning and Arraigning at his Criminal Bar, no leſs than ſeven of the moſt Eminent Fathers of the

Engliſh

English Church. And by a ſtrange alteration of the Face of Government, Treaſon over-rules the Law, and Traytors impeached, are fetch'd out of Jayl, to ſit Triumphantly domineering at the Helm of State; and *Jefferies*, the *Daniel*, that in ſome meaſure might be ſaid to be taken out of the Lyons Dens, for the Cruelty of his Nature, is advanced in open Hoſtility to Juſtice, to wage War with the Fundamental Conſtitutions of the Kingdom, A mean Spirit, inſulting over his Inferiors, but a Spaniel to his Superiors; who, though he knew himſelf no more than a Tool in the Hand of a *Popiſh* Artificer; the Shadow of Grandieur; lofty under Contempt, and domineering only in Publick; yet having pawn'd his Soul for the hopes of an Embroidered Purſe, rather than decoil to Goodneſs, careers on in Miſchief, and as if his Robes had not been Scarlet enough, dies them deep in Innocent Blood, and becomes his Maſter's Vaſſal, to enſlave the Nation. Such Counſellors as theſe hurried on the new Crowned King with ſuch a Rapidneſs, to accompliſh the great Work of introducing Tyranny and Popery, to which his own Fears of leaving the Papiſts worſe than he found them, as furiouſly carried him, that he threw his Brother into his Grave, as if he had not had leiſure to Bury him, or as if he had deem'd him not worth a Funeral, whom he thought not worth a longer Life: Unleſs perhaps he thought the Hypocriſie of pompous Obſequies, would have but provoked his Brother's injur'd *Manes*, with which, as common Fame had ſpread it, he was already too much peſtred.

I will not here diſpute the Truth of Apparitions, nor inſiſt upon the vulgar Cenſures about the Town upon the Prieſts, for not detaining him in the half-

half-way-Prison, but singing him out of *Purgatory*, to make his Brother melancholy, by facing him several times, and giving him an astonishing stroke upon the back, as he was going down a pair of Stairs in *White-Hall*; yet this may be asserted, That Guilt accompanied with Terror, forms those Apparitions in the Mind, which work the same effect, and obtain the same belief, when once divulg'd among the Credulous, as if they were real: However it were, it shewed he thought himself but little beholding to him for living so long, and consequently no way oblig'd to retaliate a Succession so late in the year, with so much loss of time.

And now the first influences of his Tyranny and Fury against the Protestants, flew into *Scotland*, where, whatever Indulgence he shewed in *England*, he issued forth a dreadful Proclamation against the Dissenters, under the Notion of Enemies to the King and Government, and Destroyers of the *British* Monarchy; sufficient to have given a more early Alarm to the Dissenters in *England*, had they not been lull'd asleep by the softness of a present Repose, and the Charms of their Decoy-Duke *Penn*, the effect rather of their Simplicity than their Policy.

But the first Act of his Revenge in *England*, brake forth upon *Dr. Oates*: He could not forget the Doctor's Detection of his Conspiracies against the Kingdom. And because he could not find out a way to hang him, his Chief-Justice *Jefferies* found out a punishment to gratifie his Royal Fury, worse than Death it self, and till then unknown among *Christians*, in Imitation of the *Roman Fustuarium*, by which the *Roman* Soldiers were often drubb'd to death; or if they escap'd, sent into perpetual Banishment: As the Doctor was first

of all Scourged by the common Executioner, beyond all Precedent. and then Condemn'd to perpetual Imprisonment. A *Sentence* so void of all *Christian* Compassion, that only a *Jefferies* could have invented. A goodly sight to see Protestant Judges condemning a Protestant, and the Detector of a most horrid *Popish* Plot, upon the Evidence of known *Papists*, and some of them nearly related to the Executed Traytors, and this for Perjury too, upon the Testimony of Witnesses already falsified. As if Justice were a thing that never had been Naturaliz'd in Heaven, but only depended upon the Will of the Prince, a kind of Tool to be used by his *Bene-placito* Slaves, at his or their Discretion, or the grand Poppet of the World, to be shewed in various Dresses and Disguises, as the force of Judicature required. But as for *Dangerfield*, he had been once his Darling, frequently admitted to kiss his Hand, while he was in Conspiracy with him to suck the Blood of the Innocent. But there was no Attonement for his Revolting, and Revealing the hidden Mystery of Iniquity. Therefore he must dance the same Dance that *Oates* had done; only the King did the World this small piece of Justice to throw away an inconsiderable *Roman Cathotlick*, to satisfie the general Discontent upon his being Murder'd.

In the next place he calls a Parliament, and renews his Assurances and Promises to preserve the Government, both in Church and State, as by Law establish'd; and vows to hazzard his own Person, as he had formerly done in defence of the just Liberties and Properties of the Nation. But still the Burden of his Song was, *More Money*. Which the Parliament, willing to engage him, if possible, by all the Testimonies of their Duty and Loyalty, or at least to shew that nothing should be

be wanting on their part, readily granted. And in regard that *Argyle* was said to be Landed, under the Notion of a Rebel in *Scotland*, they declared their Resolutions to stand by, and assist him, with their Lives and Fortunes, against all his Enemies whatever. No less quick were they to gratifie, than he to make those Promises which he never intended to perform. And indeed, under the Consternation the King was then in, upon the Landing of *Argyle* in *Scotland*, and the Duke of *Monmouth* in *England*, both at the same time, perhaps the Parliament might have bound him up to what Conditions they pleased, had they not slipt their Opportunity. But those two Storms being fortunately blown over, the one by ill Conduct, the other by the Treachery of pretended Friendship, and both *Argyle* and the Duke of *Monmouth* safe in their Graves, the King was so puft up with a petty Victory over a few Club-men, and so wrapt up with a Conceit, That he had now Conquer'd the whole Nation, that after he had got as much as he thought he could in Modesty desire, or they part withal, unless they saw greater Occasions than they did; which nevertheless were no small Sums in the heat of their obliging Generosity at the Commencement of a Reign, he turn'd them off, after he had sold them two or three inconsiderable Acts for all their Money.

And now being freed from any further thoughts of Parliaments, believing himself Impregnable; he resolves to be reveng'd upon the *Western* People for siding with his Capital Enemy, *Monmouth*; and to that purpose, sends down his Executioner in Ordinary, *Jefferies*, not to decimate according to the *Heathen* way of Mercy, but with the Bottom of his Cruelties, to sweep the Country before him, and to depopulate, instead of Punishment. At

what time, acquaintance, or Relation of any that fell in the Field, with a ſlender Circumſtance tack'd to either, was a Crime ſufficient for the Extirpation of the Family. And Young and Old were hangd, in Cluſters, as if the Chief Juſtice had deſigned to raiſe the Price of Halters; beſides the great number of thoſe that upon the bare Suſpicion were tranſported beyond Sea, and there ſold for Slaves, and the Purchaſe-Money given away to ſatisfie the Hunger of needy Papiſts. After Ages will read with Aſtoniſhment, the barbarous Uſage of thoſe poor people, of which, among many Inſtances, this one may ſeem ſufficient, whereby to take the Dimenſions of all the reſt: That when the Siſter of the two *Hewlands* hung upon the *Chief Juſtice*'s Coach, imploring Mercy on the behalf of her Brothers; the Mercileſs Judge, to make her let go, cauſed his Coach-man to cut her Hands and Fingers with the laſh of his Whip: Nor would he allow the Reſpite of the Execution but for two Days, though the Siſter with Tears in her Eyes, offered a Hundred Pound for ſo ſmall a Favour. And whoever ſheltered any of thoſe forlorn Creatures, were hurried to the Slaughter-Houſe with the ſame inexorable outrage, without any Conſideration of either Age or Sex; Witneſs the Execution of the Lady *Liſle* at *Wincheſter*. As for *Argyle* and the Duke, tho' they might die pitied, yet could they not be ſaid to be unjuſtly put to death, in regard they had declared open Hoſtility, and therefore it was no more than they were to expect upon ill Succeſs. However, ſince they were betray'd into the Victor's hands, before any great harm was done, the Crime was not ſo great that nothing but a Maſſacre could atone for it; more eſecially conſidering what great Advantage the King made of theſe Rebellions. For it gave

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him a fair Oppertunity to encreaſe the Numebr of his Standing-Forces, under pretence, That the Militia was not to be depended upon, and of the Reputation he had loſt of being ſo miſerably unprovided againſt *ſo wretched an Attempt as* Monmouth's was. For which Reaſon he was reſolv'd to be better provided henceforward for the Security of the Nation; and to croud in his Popiſh Officers into Commands, under the Notion of Perſons of Loyalty, and therefore ſuch whoſe Perſons he was neither to expoſe to Diſgrace by a Removal, nor himſelf to ſuffer the want of: Cautions and wary of Removing his Popiſh Commanders, but minding not at all to remove the Fears and Jealouſies of the Nation.

However his plauſible Promiſes, and this important Neceſſity of augmenting his Standing Forces, were urg'd upon the Parliament, as undeniable Reaſons for more Mony. So great a Confidence the King had either in the Awe which he had upon the Parliament, or that they were ſo Blind that they could not ſee through his Cobweb Pretences. But he ſoon found that he was deceived in his Expectations, and therefore perceiving his gilded Hooks could not take, they were decently Diſmiſs'd after ten Days ſitting, with a Prorogation from *October* till *February* enſuing.

But it ſeems King *James* was ſo confidently aſſur'd, That the Bands of Friendſhip and Alliance between him and the *French* King were ſo Indiſſoluble, That whatever Aſſiſtance the Parliament deny'd him in *England*, he ſhould not fail of from his Dear Friend and Confederate in *France*; That the Parliament being call'd for no other Intent or Purpoſe than to betray the Nation, by Furniſhing the King to accompliſh his Deſigns of Popery and Arbitrary Government; when they refuſed to be

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ſubſervient to thoſe Wicked Deſigns, and thought it more Honourable to be true to the Nation whom they Repreſented, than Serviceable to the Encroachment of his Tyranny, he laid them aſide, as things no longer uſeful for him.

And therefore like a man caſed with their juſt demial of his Demands, he reſolves the utter Subverſion of *Engliſh* Parliaments, the only Remora's of his ungodly Projects, by compleating the Diſfranchiſing of all the Cities and Corporations throughout the Nation, ſo fairly begun in his Brother's Reign, to make way for the Introduction of a *French* Parliament, That ſhould at once have ſurrender'd all the Ancient Liberty of the Kingdom, and the whole Power of the Government into his hands. And this to terrifie men into ſlaviſh Complyance, with his Tyrannical Will and Pleaſure, the Names of all ſuch Perſons, as out of Honour and Conſcience, refuſed to Co-operate with his Popiſh Miniſters towards the Publick Ruin of Liberty and Religion, and proſtitute their own and the Freedoms of their Poſterity to his Arbitrary ſubjection, were Threatned to be return'd up to the Attorney-General, to the end of their Perſons and Eſtates might be undone by Illegal Proſecutions.

In the next place, to ſet himſelf Paramoumt above all the Controul of Law, out of a vain Opinion that Kings are accountable to none but God; A ſet of Judges are pickt out to overturn the very Fundamentals of Humane Society, and Annihilate the very ends of Goverement. This the King knew muſt be done by Judges that had abandoned all High Opinon of God and Nature, and had quitted all ſence of Conſcience and True Honour; and had wholly given up their Judgments to the fooliſh Enticements of Ambition and Flattery: And when he had,

had found out such, it was easie for him to say, with his Grandfather of the same Name, *Let me make what Judges I please, and I will easily have what I please to be Law*, No wonder then these Judges having Instruments drawn up by *Brent*, which pass'd the Great Seal to Indemnifie them for whatever they did or said Illegally, affirm'd it to the King for Law, That *the King was an Independent Prince.*

That the Laws of the Kingdom, were the Kings Laws.

That the Kings of England *might Dispence with all Laws, that regarded Penalties and Punishments, as oft as necessity required.*

That they were Judges and Arbitrators who have Power to Judge of the Necessity which may induce them to make use of these Dispensations.

And Lastly, *That the King of* England *could not Renounce a Prerogative annexed to the Crown.*

By Vertue of which Concessions and Opinions of the Judges, all the Laws in *England* made in the Reigns of our four several Princes for the Security of the Natinn against Popery and Arbitrary Government, were rendered of no Effect.

By Vertue of these Concessions, *Arundel* of *Warder*, was made Lord Privy Seal, *Alibon* a Judge, and *Castlemain* was sent with great Pomp an Embassador to *Rome*, to be there contemn'd and dispis'd by his Holiness, for the bad name which his Master had among all the Princes of *Europe*, and the ill Opinion the Pope himself had of him.

By Vertue of these Concessions it was, that the greatest part of the Kingdom's Military Safety and Defence, was put into the hands of persons incapable to be intrusted with them by the Express Laws of the Kingdom; and that the Execution of the Ancient Laws and Statutes of the Realm against divers sorts of Treasons and other hainous Crimes was stopt.

By

By Vertue of these Concessions, Sir *E. Hale's* was made Lieutenant of the Tower, to Terrifie the City with his Morter-pieces, and level his Great Guns to the Destruction of the Metropolis of the Kingdom, when the Word should be given him.

By Vertue of these Concessions it was, that *Peters* was made a Privy Counsellor, to outbrave the Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury* and the Bishop of *London*: that he had his four *Provincial* Bishops, and that the *Priests* and Jesuites swarm'd in all parts of the Kingdom, Built themselves Convents, hired Mass-Houses, made open *Profession* of their Foppish Religion in the Chief City of the Nation, and in several of the Great Cities and Towns of the Kingdom, and publickly Ridicul'd the Scripture in their *Pulpits*. All which Transgressions of all the Laws of the Land both Civil and Ecclesiastick, are so fully Represented in the Memorial of the *Protestants* to their Highnesses the *Prince* and *Princess* of *Orange*, That they cannot be more fully, nor more sensibly repeated.

But the Inundation stopt not here, it was to be a general Deluge, or nothing at all. To which purpose, all Obstructions that oppos'd the Torrent, were to be level'd or remov'd out of the way; for effecting of which, there could be no *Engine* thought sufficient, but that of the *Ecclesiastical Commission*, so Arbitrary in its Original, that it had nothing but the *Pillars* of the *Prerogative* to support it; and mana'd with that Arbitrary Fury by *Jefferies*, That he look'd like a Monstrous *Titan* Warring against the Heaven of Law and Justice. For he had no way to carry Illegality with a high hand, but by arrogant Domineering, and surely Incivility, while he had nothing to offer to any *Person*, that offer'd Law to him, but *Sic Volo*, *Sic Jubeo*. To tell a Peer of *England* and the Bishop of *London* so much his Superiour,

Superior, only that he ſate upon the Throne of his Commiſſion, he that was not to be mentioned with the Biſhop in the ſame day, was ſuch a foul piece of Exeuberance of his *Guild-Hall* Eloquence, which only could have dropt from the Lips of inſulting Barbariſm. All that can be ſaid for him is this, That as many Men commit Abſurdities when loaden with Wine, this was one of his Extravagancies in his Drink of Honour. And indeed, after he had taſted of that potent Charm, the whole Courſe of his Behaviour ſeemed, to be a meer Intoxication, which made him afterwards make uſe of the ſame Receipt to drown both his Life and his Diſhonour together.

However, the Suſpending this Noble Peer and Biſhop, contrary to all pretence of Law, for refuſing to obey the Kings unjuſt and illegal Command, was no ſuch Advantage to the King's Cauſe, that he had ſo much reaſon to thank the Chancellor, or *Peters* either, for putting him upon committing a greater Act of Injuſtice, to juſtifie a leſs. The Biſhop was too well, and too generally beloved among all the Profeſſors of *Proteſtantiſm*, for the Papiſts to put ſuch an Affront upon ſo Eminent a Father of the Proteſtant Church, for them not to reſent it; even, the more prudent Papiſts thought it a Proceeding too harſh and unreaſonable, and the more moderate look'd upon it as too baſe and unworthy, ſo that the Hot-ſpurs of the King's Council were loſers on every ſide. And beſides, it was ſuch a ſtabbing Contradiction to the King's Speech in Council upon his Brother's Death, *That ſince it had pleaſed God he ſhould ſucceed ſo good and gracious a Prince as his dear Brother, he was reſolved to follow his Example, more eſpecially in that of Clemency and Tenderneſs to his People.* That the Barbarous ſuſpending this Biſhop was one of Royal

Word.

Word. Which though he had falsified already in his severity to *Oates* and *Dangerfield*, yet the Person of a Peer and Bishop, and a Star of the first Magnitude in the Church of *England* rendered much more conspicuous. But the King was under a necessity; he had declared one thing to the Protestants, but he had bound himself to do another for the Papists. If he falsified with the Protestants, the *Papists* could absolve him; if he proved unfaithful to the Papists, they would never forgive him. And in this *Dilemma* he resolved to follow the Maxim of his Profession, *Not to keep Faith with Heretick*s. Neither were the steps he made, the steps of State-convenience, now and then upon an exigency; but all in a huddle, out of his Zeal, *to make large steps, for fear, he should die and leave the Papists worse than he found them.*

These severe Proceedings against the Bishop of *London*, werd the Violation of that part of his Declaration, wherein he promised the Preservation of the *Ecclesiastical Government, as Established by Law.* But the Barbarous usage of the Gentlemen of both *Maudlin Colledges*, was an unsanctified breach of another part of his Declaration, wherein he no less solemnly engaged to maintain the Protestants *in all their Properties and Possessions as well of Church as Abby-Lands, as of all other their Properties whatsoever.* Notwithstanding all which, how he turned these Gentlemen out of their Legal Freeholds by the Arbitrary Power of his High Commission, how he violated the Constitutions of the deceased Founders, and with what an embittered rage and fury he rated them like Dogs, when they lay prostrate at his Feet, more like a Pagan Tyrant, than a Christian King, is notoriously known; and all this, to make a Popish Seminary of one of the most noble and best Colledges in the University

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And this *Peters* looked upon as one of his great Master-pieces, as appears by a Letter of his written to the *French* King's Confessor, Father *La Chese*, wherein he had the vauntidg expression, *I have gained a great point, in perswading the King to place our Fathers in* Magdalen Colledge *in* Oxford, *where they will be able to tutor the young Schollars in the Catholick Religion,*

Nor was it thought sufficient to turn the Proprietors out of their Freeholds, but under pretence of Disobedience to the King's Commands, they were also made uncapable of any Ecclesiastical Preferment, or of the Exercise of Holy Orders, and deprived of all those other ways and means of Livelyhood, for which their Education had qualified them. Which as it was a piece of Inhumanity without Parallel, so it was a plain Demonstration of the main drift and design of the King and his Popish Furies, first to draw the Protestant Clergy into the snare of Disobedience, and then under pretence of Obstinacy and Stubbornes, totally to suppress and silence them.

And yet after all this, for the King so publickly to give himself the Lie, by proclaiming to all the World, as he did, such a notorious Untruth, as *That he had never invaded the Property of any Man since his coming to the Crown*, was such a piece of Dissimulation, that *Oliver Cromwell* himself, with all the Irreligion laid to his Charge, was never guilty of. Unless his Father Confessor designed it for a Miracle to be Recorded among Popish Wonders, That he who had done nothing else from the beginning of his Reign, but invaded the Liberties and Properties of his Subjects should be so confident as to deny it. But whatever, through the frailty of his memory, he had till then forgot, he was resolved, it seems, for the future, to make

amends

amends for his Omission. To which purpose he was now provided with such a Gun-powder-Plot, that had it taken Effect, would, ere a few months had gone about, have blown up all the Properties of the whole Clergy of *England*, without Exception of any Person that had either Honour or Conscience; and the greatest part of the Bishopricks and Livings of *England* would have been pronounced void, to make way for Saudals and shaved Crowns.

This was that cunning Declaration for Liberty of Conscience, whereby he undertook to dispense with the Laws, by the sole vertue of his Prerogative. An Attempt wherein his Brother had miscarried, being forced to surreender up, and Cancel the Illegal Contrivance he had prepared for a Tryal. But King *James* puffed up with the great Exploits he had in Person performed upon *Hounslow-Heath*, and the Glorious shew his Army made there, Rendezvouzed at the same time in the same place, to add terror to his Commands, resolved to make all Opposition to bow the *Knee to Baal*.

In pursuance of those Reso'utions, he Orders his Declaration to be Printed, requires the Bishops to cause it to be destributed through all their Dioceses, and to take Care that it should be Read in all the Churches and Chappels throughout the Nation.

Upon this the Bishops Petition the King, setting forth the Illegality, and the ill Consequences of it to the whole Nation, both in Church and State; and beg the King not to insist upon the Reading it. This so incensed *Peters* and the rest of the furious Hotspurs, and oonsequently provoked the King to that degree, That the Court-Lawyers are presently consulted, who adjudge the Petition Tumultuary and Libellous; and thereupon the Archbishop of *Canter-*

Canterbury, together with the Bishop of *Asaph*, *Ely*, *Chichester*, *Bath* and *Wells*, *Peterborough*, and *Bristol*, are first sent to the *Tower*, and then Arraigned and Tryed for Mutiners against the King's Popish Government, being Charged with an Information for Publishing a Seditious, Pernitious, and Scandalous Libel. But notwithstanding all that the King's Council, and the C. J. *Wright*, and *Alibone* the Papist could do, Judge *Holloway*, and Judge *Powel*, to the Eternal praise, stuck so close to their Protestant Principles, aud so strongly oppos'd the King's Dispensing Power, for which they were turn'd out the next day, that the Bishops were acquitted, to the general Joy and Satisfaction of the whole Nation; and particularly the Soldiers upon *Hounslow-Heath*, whose Shouts and Acclamations upon the News of their Acquital, were so harsh and unpleasant in the King's Ear, that from thence forward, he began to wish he had more *Irish*, and fewer *English* in his Army.

But notwithstanding this Fatal Blow, the most undanted High Commissioners drove on furiously, sending forth their Mandates to the Chancellors, Arch-Deacons, *&c.* of the several Dioceses, to send them an exact account of all such Ministers as had refused to Read the Declaration. And there is no question to be made, but that the severity of that Imperious Court would in a short time have swept the Kingdom clear of all the Protestant Clergy, had not indulgent Heaven put a stop to their impetuous Career.

That which follows is so Romantick, that it looks more like a Novel, than a Story fit to gain Credit, hardly carrying so much Probability with it, as the Fable of *Bacchus*, cut out of *Jupiter*'s Thigh; and which looks more Romantick than all the rest: That the King himself should believe,

and urge it for an Argument to delude the World, *That he who had ſuffered ſo much for Conſcience ſake, could not be capable of ſo great a Villany to the prejudice of his Children*; and in forcing the ſame Argument yet further, by ſaying, *That it was his Principle, to do as he would be done by, therefore would rather dye a Thouſand Deaths, than do the leaſt Wrong to his Children.* When the World was convinced, that he could not have ſuffered ſuch an Affront to have been put upon him, but for the very Reaſon he alledged; and that, as for his *doing as he would be done by*, it was apparent by all his Actions, that he could not ſpeak thoſe Words from his Heart, without ſome Mental Expoſitions reſerved to himſelf.

Certainly therefore, ſince it was for the Preſervation of the *Roman* Catholick Religion, that the Contrivance was ſet on foot, it argues, that his Conſcience was under the moſt dreadful Subjection to his Popiſh Confeſſors, or that his Zeal was no leſs ſtrangely Govern'd by an Imperious Woman, that for the ſake of Popery, he ſhould conſent to a Conſpiracy againſt his own Fleſh and Blood. He would not endure to be Excluded from the Succeſſion, but that he would Exclude his own Daughters from the Succeſſion, and yet tells us, 'tis his Principle, *To do as he would be done by*, as if he thought the way to make us credit a Story of his Son, were to tell an untruth of himſelf.

The World, that grows Wiſer every day than another: will never be made believe, that a Perſon debilitated by the unfortunate Effects of the exaſperated Revenge of an injured Bed, and meeting with a Conſort no leſs infirm, by whom he never had before any Child, but what dropt into the Grave as ſoon as Born, not having any ſubſtantial Rafters for Life to build upon, ſhould ſo ſeaſonably

bly nick it, to be both the Parents of a ſound Off-ſpring for the Preſervation of *Popery*.

She, who ought to have taken all advantages, to have had publick and undeniable Teſtimonies of her Glory, to be the Mother of a Prince, ſo providentially ſent from Heaven, to Support and Eſtabliſh the *Roman Catholick* Faith, in a Revolted Kingdom, would never have been ſo reſerv'd, and ſhy of expoſing the Symptoms of her Pregnance, but only to a few that were privy to the Impoſture.

But omitting the manifold Circumſtances, ſufficiently already canvaſſed, to detect the Pious *Fraud*, and the Chyrum of Affidavits to cover the Cheat, all brought upon the publick Stage, by dire conſtraint on the one ſide, and immodeſt Bigotry on the other; the unhappy occaſion of revealing the *Arcana* of Generation to every Turn-ſpit, and ſerving only to enflame the Deſires of wanton Youth: Omitting, I ſay, the Circumſtances, there are others, no leſs remarkable of another Nature, as the ſending *Caſtlemain* to *Rome*, among other things, to Impart this Affair to his Holineſs, and to know whether the Apoſtolick Sea would ſtand by the pretended Prince, in caſe the Peope ſhould diſpute his Title. And this ſeems to be confirmed by the coming over of Count *Dada*, in the Quality of the Pope's *Nuncio*, juſt as the Force was contriving, and the Pope's being afterwards God-Father to the Child.

In the next place, about the time that the Conception was pretended, Father *Peters* was taken into the Privy-Council, to give the Report all the Favour imaginable at the Board, to prevent the being of it Conteſtee, or if it were to ſatisfie all manner of Doubts, and ſo incite the Lords to make ſuch Orders, as the Caſe required; which had not been ſo proper for the King, or the reſt

of the Popish Lords, who knew not so well what to insist upon. Another thing was, that the Child was no sooner Born, but it was translated to *Richmond*, lest the pretended Mother should have been put to the Trouble of a forced Fondness; which, had the Child continued with her, would have prov'd a part so irksom, and so ill for her to act, that notice would have been taken of it.

Nor was it less observable, that at the same time the Bishops were lock'd up safe, that they might be out of the way of being call'd for Witnesses, whose Impartiality otherwise would have been desiring more satisfaction to their Consciences, than the depth of the Mystery required.

To which may be added, That at the first, the King himself, who had most Reason to know, did not seem to give Credit to the thing, or at least, was very doubtful of it; and therefore, when the News was first brought him, as one that rather wished it true, than thought it to be real; he made answer to the Messenger, *If 'twere so, it was very odd*; till finding, that the Lady of *Loretto* would take Bribes, and had espoused the blessed Design, he was bound to believe, that his Mother-in-Law's Prayers, and the Diamond Bodkin had prevailed; and that his Royal Consort had been impregnated by an Apparition, like the Mother of *Damaratus*, King of *Sparta*.

However, it was looked upon all over *Europe*, as a very low and mean Condescention of a Soveraign Prince, Hedge-Sparrow like, to hatch the Cucko's-Egg, and own the suppositious Issue of another Man; which they, who pretend to make the best Excuse for, seem willing to believe, proceeded more from Fear than Conscience, in regard, that being Privy to the many Conspiracies of the Priests and Jesuits against his Brother's Life,

Life, it poſſeſſed him with ſuch a dread of their *Popiſh* Mercy, that he yielded to whatever they deſired, for his own Preſervation. On the other ſide, the Prieſts and Jeſuits were ſo terribly afraid of a Revolution after his Death; that by the Power of his imperious Queen, and their own Importunities, they hurried him on to all thoſe Impolitick Exorbitances, that haſtned both their own and his Ruin.

For now the Nation, no longer able to brook ſuch a deluge of illegal Oppreſſions, and the whole Body of the Nobility and Gentry of the Kingdom, obſerving ſuch a general Deſolation impending upon their Religion, Lives and Fortunes, apply themſelves to their Highneſſes the Princeſs and Prince of *ORANGE*, as the only Cherubims on Earth, under whoſe Wings they could retire for Safety and Protection. Who no ſooner, with a Generoſity becoming a true Defender of the Proteſtant Faith, appeared in their Defence, but Conſternation ſeized King *James*, and all his raving Counſellors.

Upon the firſt News of the Heroick Prince's Preparations, he takes off the Biſhop of *London*'s Suſpenſion, reſtores the City-Charter, with all thoſe other Franchiſes which had been ſo tempeſtuouſly raviſhed from other Corporations, and returns the Ejected Gentlemen of both Univerſities to the Freeholds which he had wreſted out of their hands. But yet to ſhew how firm he was in his Reſolutions to reſume the ſame Deſpotick Power again, had his Succeſs once anſwered his Expectations; after he had ordered the Biſhop of *Winchester* to put in the Fellows of *Maudlin Colledge*, he no ſooner heard of the Prince's being put back by ſtorm, with ſome ſmall Loſs, which was heightned out of Policy in *Holland*, but he recalled his Orders

to the Bishop, sent for him to *London*, and stopt the Re-admission of the Fellows, till he heard the *Prince* was again Embarked, and prosperously bending his Course for *England*.

So soon as he heard the Prince was Landed, he summons his Affidavit Lords and Ladies about him, in hopes to have sworn his pretended Son into the Succession, in case of any Miscarriage of his own Person, which he never intended to indanger. After that he flew to *Salisbury*, believing the Terror of his Name would have gain'd him present Victory. But not meeting the good Fortune he expected, all that he did there, was to discourage his Soldiers with his Pusillanimous Fears and Frights upon every little Alarm of a Post-Boy: So that although he had good Counsel given him, to Horse all his Foot, displace all the Collonels, and advance the other Officers gradually, and fall upon the Enemy while they were yet labouring under the Inconveniencies of the Sea, and before their Numbers increased, he rejected it, unless he might keep his *Teagues* about him, and expose the *English* to the usual Dangers of Road-beaters. Which, together with their unwillingness to Engage the Deliverers of their Country, so alienated their Hearts from him, that they deserted him by Troops and Regiments. Desponding at this, and more terrified with a little bleeding at the Nose, than he had been with all the innocent Blood which he had caused to be spilt, he returns back to *London*; and having sent his Queen and her Babe before, which was sufficient Warning for *Dada*, *Peters*, and the rest, to provide for themselves, he withdrew from the City; but being taken, rifled, and seized by the Country People, near *Feversham*, before they knew him, he was brought back to *White-hall*, where, having his

Choice

Choice given him to stay in *England*, or to go beyond Sea, he rather chose by a voluntary departure, to abdicate the Realm. To which he was advis'd by his Council, that assured him, The Distractions of the Kingdom would make way for his Return in a little time; *Which God forbid.*

And thus, to the surprize of all Men, came to pass a Revolution so Sudden, so Great, and Unexpected, that History cannot parallel. It seem'd a Laybyrinth of Providence, to which the Belov'd of Heaven *WILLIAM HENRY* only had the Clue; while Prudence and Fortitude were the *Araidnes* that gave him their Assistance to subdue the *Minotaur* that devoured our Religion and Liberties. Two conspicuous Examples at once of Heaven's Indignation, and the Almighty's Favour; the one pursuing to his downfal, an Apostate from God, and an Oppressor of his People, and exposing him among unbelieving Bog-Trotters upon the lingring Death-bed of his gasping Glory, the fettered Vassal of the once fawning Confederate. The other prospering with Miracles of Success, the Generous Redeemer of the True Reformed Religion, from the devouring Jaws of that double headed Monster, Popery and Slavery: By whose Auspicious Conduct, two late languishing Kingdoms, groaning under the heavy weight of Misery and Tyranny, enjoy a Jubilee of Peace and Tranquility, and freed from the daily fears of Massacre and Destruction in the fair way to recover their Pristine Glory, have now no more to do, but to repay their Praises to Heaven, and their due acknowledgments to them that have approv'd themselves the truly indulging Father and Mother of their Country: A Prince, the wonder of His Age; a Princess, the Miracle of

Her

Her Sex; in whom all Virtues, as in their proper Centre meet, rendring the Nation happy in *Two* in *One*, as the whole World is bleſt in *Three* in *One*; and upon whom, next under Heaven, depend the Hopes of all that cordially deſire the Welfare, and Proſperity of *Chriſtendom*.

Here ends the *Secret Hiſtory* of the Four Laſt Monarchs of *Great-Britain*.

A N

AN APPENDIX,

Containing the

Secret History

OF

King *JAMES* the II.

Since his Abdication of *England*, Continued to this present *November*, 169$\frac{3}{4}$.

Being an Account of his Tranſactions in *Ireland* and *France*. With a more particular Reſpect to the Inhabitants of *Great-Brittain*.

WHen one looks back, and reflects upon the continued Conduct of our late Monarch, both before, and after his Acceſſion to the Crown, and the

the dismal Consequences thereof to these Three Kingdoms, and at last to himself; I cannot but regret the Fate of those Princes, that abondon their true Interest, Reason, Conscience, and Honour to *Jesuitick* Councils, and enslave themselves to a Party, justly abominated by the better part of the *Romish* Church it self, for their gross Encroachments upon Religion, Morality, and all that's Sacred among Men. When I look back to the many Tragedies, acted by that Fraternity, both in this, and the last Age, scarce a Kingdom, or State in *Europe*, where their Villanies have not come up to the utmost reach of depraved Nature. When I call to mind the horrid Desolations, Murders and Wars, they have been instrumental of, in the most remote parts of the World; witness some Millions of Souls in *Japan*, and other parts of *Asia*, Sacrific'd not many Years ago, to their Ambition and Intrigues, under the Notion of propagating the *Catholick* Faith; I say, when I consider all these things, I am the less surprized with the dismal Effects of their Councils in *England*, since the same Fate attends them every where. But I must confess, that among all the Martyrs to *Loyala*'s Principles, the late King *James* is the Subject of Admiration: To see a Prince imposed upon by these jealous Bigots, to trample upon the Religion and Liberties of his People, contrary to the Fundamental Laws, and the most solemn Promises and Oaths, under the false Mask of Piety and Zeal to the *Catholick* Faith, and at length to find him seduced to abandon his Kingdoms, and thereby an absolute necessity put upon the Representatives of the People, to fill up his Throne, vacated by his own Fault, is a Subject that naturally displays the Vanity of humane Greatness. And I may add, That the unaccountable Doctrine of *Passive Obedience*, as it was the Source

of

of a great many Miſchiefs among our ſelves; ſo what has befallen that King, may be partly imputed to it; for the believing, That without controul he might do what he pleaſed, encouraged him to take ſuch meaſures as have brought upon him all his Misfortunes.

Soon after, the late King *James*'s Abdicating of *England*, and retiring to *France*, it was judged by him, and his doubly Deputy *Tyrconnel*, the fitteſt time to put the long contrived Deſigns of Subverting the *Proteſtant* Religion, and introducing *Popery* into full Execution in the Kingdom of *Ireland*, (notwithſtanding the ill Succeſs the like Attempt had met with in *England*) upon which, in *December*, 1689, there was a Motion made in Council for diſarming all the *Proteſtants* of that Kingdom that had any Arms left them; which being known, and moſt concluding, that as ſoon as their Arms were taken (there being then a hot diſcourſe of a general Maſſacre) 'twas only to leave them more naked, and expoſed, ſo as that it might have its full Effects more eaſily, and with leſs oppoſition upon them, which alarm'd the *Proteſtants* ſo, that many Thouſands came flocking over, to avoid that fatal ſtroke. Now were the few *Proteſtants*, who liv'd diſperſt, left to ſhift for themſelves. In the mean time, the Lord *Tyrconnel* (who ſtill had the Sword undemanded, and undiſpoſed of to any other) iſſues new Commiſſions, not only to the *Roman Catholicks*, who had ſome Eſtates, but to all, who were willing to ſtand up for the Cauſe, that were Men of broken Fortunes, and worſe Fame, that could influence the Rabble, and raiſe Companies, only with this *Salvo*, that they ſhould maintain them for three Months, at their own Coſt and Charges, and then they ſhould have their Commiſſions given them; by which it was adjudged,

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in regard there was but little Money in the Treasury, they should be fitted for Service against King *James* should come, or send them Money; or, that if the *Deputy* found an Army ready to Land out of *England*, what Money was there would be little enough to bear his Charges, and furnish him with necessaries on his flight. But these Commissions (or rather Encouragements) being very many; for every one that could get about Sixty *Kearns*, or Country Fellows, to joyn with them, and own him as their Captain, immediately strutted, and looked very big, and was honoured by the Name of Captain; so that it was nothing strange to have 20 or 30 Companies in a County, and these the noted Vagabonds, and Cow-stealers; so that presently the Captains (many of which had not Three Cows of their own) had several Hundreds of Cattle driven into Nookes and By-corners; and all that were branded were sure to go to Pot, in regard the Horn (as they called it) spoke *English*: The rest were sent into other remote Counties, to the Officers there, and those again sent their stolen Cattle in exchange for the other (which was done to elude a Proclamation from the Lord-Deputy, on the many and daily Complaints he received on the Account of the stolen Cattle) requiring all Officers, as well as others, to be aiding and assisting to recover the stolen Cattle, and to punish the Offenders, which passed for Currant: For it was well if a *Protestant* could go safe to the next Garrison, who sometimes would be so civil (especially if a Sum of Money were given his Men, to assist in the search) as to send Eight or Ten Miles, but before the Cattle must be far enough from the place searched: and sometimes, when 30 or 40 fat Bullocks came to be made a Prey, that about a Third or Fourth part must be laid aside for the Pott; the

the reſt, for a Bribe of 5 or 6 *l*, would be got by ſome of the Soldiers, who would ſwear luſtily they were forced to promiſe much to the Spy; yet no ſooner (on the delivery of the greater part of the Cattle, and the Money received) but before in a Night or Two, the Cattle were again ſtolen. Thus the merry Drovers (as they called themſelves) valued not to joyn, about 60 or 80, or an 100 in one Party, and force away what Cattle they had a mind to: So that ſometimes an Hundred Sheep would ſcarce feed the Drivers, and their Families, and Friends; and a Purchaſe of an Hundred was only fit to be divided among them and their Crew, into Lots and Parts. And now theſe new raiſed Forces were almoſt half Armed out of the Stores, the reſt were pretty well fitted for *P*ikes, made in the Country; and the Prieſts and Fryars, Commanded (on Obedience to the Holy See) that no Perſon whatſoever ſhould appear at Maſs without his long Skeene, and half-Pike, which accordingly was performed; and one *P*erſon, who had not one Foot of Land, but what he Farmed from an *Engliſh* Gentleman, had 12 Dozen of each made for himſelf and Tenants; an Account whereof was ſent to the Government, but no notice taken.

And now it was thought fit, that theſe new raiſed Forces ſhould betake themſelves to Garriſons, which was ſuddainly done. And not only were the King's Garriſons, Forts and Caſtles, well ſtored with them, but in many Gentlemen's Houſes that were any thing, (or whoſe Owners were judged diſaffected to them) were likewiſe filled with their Numbers, and the Proprieters, or Poſſeſſors turned out, and the Proviſion Seized (and as it was an extraordinary Favour to get off any Goods, that were of any Value) or pretence

that they were for the King's Use, and that he would make Satisfaction, when, how, and in what manner he thought fit, and that was not the least thing done by his Command.

Now was it plain, that this Army was not design'd to fight with Butter-flies, and that the Lives of all the Protestants that stayed, were in apparent danger. On which, an humble Request was made to one or two Persons of greatest Quality and Station, to stand up for the *Protestant Religion*, and *English Interest*. But others, through a mistaken Zeal for Loyalty, or judging the scattered and dispersed Protestants, too weak to withstand their shock (much less to disarm the Party design'd) 'twas therefore declined, and judged unfit to attempt, as they proposed, seizing the Sword, Lord Deputy and *Dublin*.

Now *Tyrconnel*, having by King *James*'s express Command, disarm'd the Protestants in general, throughout *Ireland*; the *Irish* Cut-Throats, Sons, and Grand-Sons of the Massaker of *Forty One*, being Armed in their room; the Act of Settlement broken throughout *Ireland*, the *Irish* Clergy having re assumed their Bishopricks and Livings, committing great Abuses on the Protestant Clergy, (as has been already hinted at) Advice came to *Dublin* of King *James*'s being Landed at *Kinsale*, and that he was on his way for the City: At this Princes first Arrival in *Ireland*, to ingroriate himself with the Protestants, and to beget an Opinion of his great Clemency among the People, he very Graciously condescended to grant a general Pardon to the Inhabitants of the Town of *Bandon*, amusing them with an assurance of an absolute Indemnity for their Transgressions; but soon after he remitted them to the Severity of the Law, and exposed them to a Tryal for their Lives, upon which they were all found

found guilty of High-Treason; and no other Consequence could rationally be expected, when both Judges and Jury were composed of inexecrable *Papists*: And, in the mean time, this mighty Crime was no more than that the Inhabitants of the place observing their Neighbours to be openly Robbed and Pillaged, and from Clandestine Thievery, to proceed to violent Depradation, they thought it prudent to shut their Gates, and avoid Plunder by a necessary Defence, and self-Preservation.

This was the first Essay of the Gracious Indulgence of a *Popish* King to his *Protestant* Subjects. This was a plain Specimen of what is to be expected from him, who will Mortgage his Reason to the Humour of his Priests.

Soon after this, King *James*, to ingratiate himself with the People of *England*, sends over a specious Paper, which was privately dispersed by his Friends in *London*, under the Title of King *James* His Declaration to all His Loving Subjects in the Kingdom of *England*, which was in Substance as followeth.

ALthough the many Calumnies, and dismal Stories, by which Our Enemies have endeavoured to render Us and Our Government odious to the World, do now appear to have been advanced by them, not only without any Ground, but against Their own certain Knowledge, as is evident by their not daring to attempt these Charges to the World, which we cannot but hope, hath opened the Eyes of Our good Subjects, to see how they have been imposed upon by designing Men, who, to promote their own Ambitious Ends, care not what Slavery they reduce Our Kingdoms to.

That since His Arrival in Ireland, *the Defence of His Protestant Subjects (as he calls them) their*

Religion, Privilodges and Properties, is especially His Care, with the Recovery of his own Rights.

And to this end, he has preferred such of them, of whose Loyalty and Affection he is satisfied, to Places, both of the highest Honour and Trust about his Person, as well as in his Army.

That by granting his Royal Protection in Ireland, *to such, whose Minds were shaken by the Arts of His Rebellious Subjects, has dispelled their Apprehensions, and effectually secur'd them against the Attempts, even of their private Enemies.* And then adds, *His Ears have been always open to their just Complaints.*

And so far has His Royal Mercy been extended to those that were in Arms against Him; that he has actually pardoned several Hundreds of them, and most notorious Criminals are swept in an easie Confinement. Then he goes on with his wonted Professions of kindness to the Protestant Religion, Church of England, *and Protestant Dissenters,* &c.

It seems, King *James* continues in His wonted Road, of taking wrong Measures, both of Persons and Actions, which has been the occasion of all His Misfortunes, When he talks of His Enemies that have rendred Him and His Government odious to the World; He mistakes himself, if he means those worthy Patriots, that being weary of his insupportable Encroachments upon the Religions, and civil Liberties of these Nations, did lend a Hand, to deliver themselves, and fellow-Subjects, from a Ruin that seemed almost inevitable.

The reading those Lines, wherein he makes great pretensions of Defending the *Protestant* Subjects in *Ireland*, puts me in mind of the Parallel, so exactly observed betwixt the *French* King, and King *James*, in all their Conduct, and particularly in both there way of asserting the calm Methods, used by them towards their *Protestant* Subjects.

When

When that *Common Enemy of the Christian part of* Europe. (as a late Pope was pleased to call him) had out-done all the *Neroes*, and *Julians* of old, in the Art of Persecution, and had rendered himself abominated to the World, by the Cruelties committed by his Dragoon Missionaries upon those very People that had done him the best Offices, and preserved the Crown upon his Head in his Minority; yet at the very same time, *Lewis* the XIV. and his Ministers have had the Impudence to affirm, That no other Methods were used to convert those poor Victims, but those of a fair Perswasion and Calmness. Just so, King *James*, that he may follow as near his Corps as possible, having, since his Arrival in *Ireland*, abandoned the *Protestants* of that Country, to the Mercilefs Rage of an Enemy irreconcileable, from both a Principle of Religion, and civil Interest; who, within his View, have laid desolate whole Countries, and acted Barbarities, proper only to themselves, and their *French* Confederates, and by which, they forced away a great many Thousands from their Country, at the point of starving, having sav'd nothing of their Fortunes from so universal a Calamity. Yet, notwithstanding all this appears in the Face of the Sun, King *James*, that he may not come short of his Patron, boldly affirms, That the Religion, Priviledges and Properties of his Protestant Subjects (as he names them) are his chiefest Care, over and above; and so much for the Declaration.

It is a Matter, not unworthy the Observation, how dexterously the Government in *Ireland* could prevaricate in their Dealings with the poor enslaved *Protestants*; for upon any Apprehensions of Succours, arriving from *England*, or other pretext to fleece and squeeze them; an Information was presently given, how numerous the *Protestants*

were, and what danger may rise from thence; and then they were forthwith confined, and hurried away to Prison, and their Houses and Goods exposed to the Rapine of the *Irish* and *French*. At another time, when it might be subservient to their Designs, to lessen the number, and undervalue the Strength of the Protestants, then they give out, that their number was but small, and their Interest inconsiderable. And this is very remarkable in a late Passage at the City of *Lymerick*, where the Cabal of the Papists projecting to get the Churches there into their Hands, represented to the King and Council, that the Protestants in that place were so very few, that there was no need to assign them any more than one Church for their Meeting.

If at any time an Information was given to the Government of any Money, Plate, or other things valuable in the Hands of a Protestant, though guarded by the Solemnity of a Protection, this was soon seconded by the Suspition of some Plot against the Government; and immediately a Party was sent to seize their Persons, to search, and Plunder their Houses; and so, after the Infliction of all sorts of Misery and Distress, they are admitted to Liberty, under the Caution of Bonds for good Behaviour; but nothing left to sustain them, or to prevent the Calamitous Assaults of Poverty and Famine.

At another time, they proceed with more Jesuitical fierceness; for having in their Eye a concealed Purchase of Money, or good Moveables, in the Hands of a Protestant, immediately an Order was secretly granted, to seize the Persons, and secure their Goods; and then, to amuse the World with an Opinion of their Justice and Lenity,

a Proclamation was contrived with a plausible promise of Indemnity to all Protestants under their Protection, and an Invitation to all Men to rest secure under the Benignity of it. But in the mean time, the Matter is so ordered, that the Proclamation shall not be Published, or delivered into the Sheriffs Hands, or other Officers, tho' antidated before the issuing such Order, till a certain Advertisement be received, that the Order is executed, and the Work done.

What a miserable an unexpected Oppression is it, that the poor Subjects shall be compelled to part with their Goods and Merchandize, for a contemptible Lump of Brass and Pewter? Yet such hath been the constant proceeding of the late King towards his Subjects in *Ireland*; whose Goods and Commodities he rather Seized than Bought, and becoming the grand Merchant of the Kingdom, he was the general Ingrosser of all Trade, which he Vends and Exports to his dear Correspondent in *France*: Bargaining with the Owner at such a rate, as the Buyer is pleased to make, and discharging his Contract in Bills of Copper, Pewter, and Brass, which can in no way avail the poor Seller, or support him in the Circulation of his Trade. I will only present the *Reader* with one instance, (among innumerable others) and give him an Authentick Account of what Goods were taken up in *Dublin* at one time for the King's Use, (*i. e.*) were Seized by Armed force, and a Price set upon them at the pleasure of the Taker.

Seized in the City of *Dublin*, for the King's use, *Feb. 6th.* 1689.

Of Tanned Hides, 18771. *Of Raw Hides*, 14687. *Of Stones of Wooll*, 61105. *Of Tuns of Tallaw*, 385. *Of Stones of Butter*, 40.

The

The like Methods were put Execution in all parts of the Country, Seizing and carrying away what the Proteſtants had, in order to be ſent after the former.

After the King had made Braſs-Money currant in *Ireland*, it was at firſt pretended to paſs only in Payment between Man and Man, in their daily Commerce and Dealings, and in publick Payment in Debts to the Exchequer.

But ſoon after, the *Iriſh* beginning to conſider, that they were generally indebted to the *Engliſh*, and that this might be a fit ſeaſon, and a lucky opportunity to get their Debts eaſily, and cheaply diſcharged. A Proclamation was publiſhed, enjoyning and requiring, That Copper and Braſs Money ſhould paſs as Current Money, within the Realm of *Ireland*, in the Payment of Bills, Bonds, Debts by Record, Mortgages, and all other Payments whatſoever. By which knack, many a poor Proteſtant was fobb'd out of his Right, and compelled to take an heap of Traſh for Debt. One of the moſt eminent *Silver-Smiths* of *Dublin*, having ſold all his Plate to a *Papiſt*, who promiſed to pay him his Price (agreed upon) in Silver and Gold; but no Faith being to be kept with *Heretick*s, the *Goldſmith* was compelled to take Braſs and Copper. And ſoon after this, the late King put forth his Savoury and Fruitful Proclamation, to make Braſs Money paſs in Satisfaction of all Debts, Signed at *Dublin-Caſtle*, *Feb.* 4*th.* 1689. But I challenge all Hiſtories and Records of Nations, to parallel the late ſhameful uſage of the poor Proteſtants Priſoners in *Gallway*, upon whom was placed ſo odious a Cheat, ſo unman-like a Sham, that Poſterity will hardly be induced to believe it; and I muſt implore the Charity of the preſent

ſent Age, not to look it as a Fable; but it is ſo certain, and ſo ſad a Truth, that I defie the Subtility and Impudence of a Jeſuite, to gain ſay, or contradict.

There was a Stipulation made ſome time ago, between King *James*, and the *French* Tyrant, to exchange ſome Regiments of Auxillaries, and about 5000 Men being accordingly ſent from *France*, and Landed in *Ireland*, the late King ordered the like number of *Iriſh* to be forthwith Embarked, and Tranſported into *France*, among whom, the Regiment of Collonel *Rob. Fielding* was appointed to be one; but before he could get his Regiment on Board, a great number of the Men run away, according to their natural and uſual Cuſtom; ſo that he became mightily puzzled what ſhift to make to recruit his Regiment, whereupon this expedient was found out. There was in *Galloway* about 120 *Engliſh* Priſoners, who had endured the Miſery of cloſe Confinement, Cold, Hunger, and daily Expectation of violent Death, for above 14 Months for pretended Treaſon. To them Coll. *Fielding* applyed himſelf, promiſing, that for every one that would raiſe Eight Men, and deliver them to him to recruit his Regiment, ſuch ſhould not only have their immediate Liberty, but an abſolute Pardon; and to that purpoſe he produced the late King's Warrant for a General Pardon. The poor Gentlemen overjoyed with the ſecurity of their Lives, and the Proſpect of their Liberties, conſented readily; and in a ſhort time, about 14 of the Priſoners (with extraordinary Pains and Charge) brought in the number demanded, and delivered them to the Conduct of the Collonel; whom, with his Men, was no ſooner Shipp'd off, but an Order was ſent from the late King, to

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ſeize upon thoſe deluded Gentlemen, and to recommit them to their former Priſon, on pretence, that *Fielding*'s Contract with them, was not done with his Allowance: The Great *Turk* would bluſh to be charged with ſuch an Action, and the very *Heathen* would abhor it! An Action, fit only for the *Monſieur* of *France*, and ſuch Princes as are influenced by his Example.

The *French* had not been Two Days in *Dublin*, when they murdered Two or Three Proteſtant *Cloathiers*, in a part of the City, called *Comb*, for that great Crime of protecting their Wives from being made Proſtitutes to the *French*; of which Inhumane Act, no Notice was ever taken by the late King, or his Government, more than if Two Dogs had been ſhot. About the ſame time, ſome of them took a Country-Maid, that came to Market with her Father, and defloured her in the open Street at Noon-day. A motion was made in Council, that the City of *Dublin* ſhould be fired, the Proteſtants being firſt ſhut up in the Churches and Hoſpitals; and then, if they loſt the Day at the *Boyne*, to ſet Fire to all: Whereupon the *Iriſh* Papiſts, Traders in the City, and thoſe of the Army, that either themſelves, Relations, or Friends, own'd Houſes in it, apply'd themſelves to their King, and told him, They ſhould ſuffer in that Expedition, as well as the Proteſtants, and that they would not draw a Sword in his Defence, unleſs all Thoughts of Burning the City were ſet aſide; and declared, That as ſoon as they ſaw or heard of any Appearance of Fire, they would fly from his Service, and ſubmit to King *William*'s Mercy; of which, now they had a good Experiment.

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The World is very ſenſible, that 'tis the common Ambition of degraded Princes, how juſt ſoever Dethroned, to endeavour their own Reſtauration.

There is a Chance in a Crown, and 'tis an extraordinary Reſignation that can quit the Pretences to Titles ſo great, though never ſo deſervingly forfeited. We do not therefore at all wonder at the *Iriſh* and *French* Army, prepared for King *James*'s intended Deſcent, and Invaſion of *England* laſt Year, nor the early Naval Preparations of the *French* on that Occaſion. Such Expedition on ſo important an Attempt, carried ſome little Face of Glory in it. His very Enemies could not deny, but ſuch an Enterprize had been an Ambition, well puſh'd; and had he ſucceeded, he mighty fairly have written himſelf *James* the Conqueror. But as bold and gallant Atchievements in the Univerſal Standard of Honour, carry a great Name; and which true Greatneſs poſſibly, has no occaſion to be aſhamed of. Nevertheleſs, there may be thoſe poorer Deſigns; that inſtead of being either Great or Glorious, perhaps may carry the Vileſt, and moſt abject Face, that a much leſs Character then King *James* ought to bluſh at. As for Example, the following Commiſſion.

James, By the Grace of God, of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, *&c.* To Our Truſty, and Well-Beloved, Capt. *Patrick Lambert.*

KNow Ye, That we Repoſing ſpecial Truſt in the Approv'd Fidelity and Valour, have Aſſigned, Conſtituted and Appointed you, Commander of the Good Frigate, called, the *Providence*, and

and further, We give you full Power and Authority to enter into any *Port* or *River* of the Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, or any Territories thereunto belonging, and either there, or at Sea, to Take, and Apprehend; and in case of any Opposition or Resistance, to *Sink*, *Burn*, or otherways, *Destroy* all *Ships* and *Vessels*, together, with their Goods, Loading, and Merchandises belonging to the Inhabitants of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, or either of them, together with the *Ships* Goods, and Merchandizes of the *States* of the United Provinces, or Their Subjects, and to bring and send up all such Ships and Goods, as they shall take in some Port of *France*, and to procure the same to be Adjudged, *Lawful Prize* in the next Court of Admiralty, Established by our *Dear Brother*, the most *Christian King*. And the Tenths, and other Dues arising out of the said Prizes are to be paid to *Thomas Stratford*, or in his Absence to *Jean Nimport*, of *Brest*, or to such other Persons as shall have Authority from Us to receive the same.

Signed, *Melfort*.

Given at Our Court, at the Castle of St. Germans, Feb. 22. 169½.

Here you find, instead of a more warrantable Ambition of recovering Three Kingdoms, he poorly descends to grant his Commissions to *Privateers* to Rifle, and Spoil all the Subjects of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, indifferently to *Burn*, *Sink*, and *Fire* their *Vessels*, *&c.* and all this without respect of Persons, Interests or Religion. The severest *Romanists*, or most violent *Jacobite*, (without exception) is to be swept in the common Doom. So that instead of pretending all his former promised Impurity

purity and Tenderneſs to the People of *England*, or inſtead of Bravely grappling at his Royal Rival in the Imperial Seat, he vilely aſſumes little leſs than a common Pyrat, Authorizes the Depredations of the *Engliſh* Merchants, even by the very Hands of *Engliſh* Men. This laſt poor Spirited Meanneſs muſt either plainly tell us, that he has utterly renounced all Hopes of Recovery of his Kingdoms, and ſo under that Deſpair, he reſolves to play at a ſmall Game, rather than ſtand out, (which indeed is the beſt Title I can give it) and conſequently (like the famous *Dyoniſius*, ſumed *Pedagogue*) when he can ſcourge Kingdoms no longer, he prepares his leſſer Rods for a more Tyrannick Laſh; or elſe, that forgetting that he ever was a Monarch, and therefore bluſhing at nothing, though never ſo Unprincely, he contents himſelf with being under-Secretary to the *French* King, whileſt the little *James* is but a Subſcription to the Great *Lewis*. The *French* King deputes him as his *Emanuenſis*, to Copy Commiſſions for him; and the contented Receiver of that high Favour, is paid to officiate in the Truſt. It was Remarkt of him, that at his firſt Departure from *England*, upon his Tranſport from *Feverſham*, he uttered this Expreſſion. *That he had rather be a Captain of Light Horſe, under the* French *King, than Reign King of* England, *udder the Lvſh and Countroul of Parliaments*. A Captain of a Troop of Horſe is no over-high Poſt: But truly, of the two, 'tis much the more Honourable, than the Granting of ſuch Commiſſions. But indeed, all theſe tend to the aggradizing of the *French* King; the Poorer the Subjects of *England*, the ſtronger the Grand *Lewis*; his inviolable Zeal and Fidelity, therefore to the moſt *Chriſtinn* (ſo titled) *Nero*, ſupercedes all other Conſiderations, and (*fas aut neſas*) Right or

Wrong, Honourably or Infamous, nothing comes amiss that carries the least Shadow of Service to that darling Idol. One thing is very remarkable in the *Janus* Faces of King *James*'s Pretences. This very Commission found on Board a Prize, taken on the West of *England* the last Summer, was dated at St. *Germans*, the 22*th* of *Febr.* 169½. which (pray observe) bearing date before his intended Invasion; impowers this *Privateer* to enter into any Port or River of *England*, *Scotland*, or *Ireland*; and commit all those Hostilities of Fireing, Sinking, Burning, *&c.* All Traders, Vessels whatever, at the same time that this Declaration, prepared for his Reception in *England*, intimated all the Affection and Tenderness imaginable to the Interests, Property, and what not, of his Subjects of *England*, *viz.* That he was coming only to recover his own Right, Establish and Restore their Laws and Liberties; and yet, at the same time he gave out Commissions to Waste, Ruin, and Destroy the most innocent Traders of the Kingdom, possibly no ways interested in the Titles, and Disputes of Princes, in Parties or Causes; but on the contrary, only endeavouring a peaceable Acquisition of their Bread, by their honest Commerce and Industry.

To conclude, From all this Prince's Actions, in the whole Series of his Life, it is no difficult matter to make a Judgment of what we may justly expect from him, if ever Divine Judgment, as the Reward of our Ingratitude for so great a Deliverance, should permit us to fall again under the heavy Yoke of a Popish Prince, whom we have so justly and happily thrown off. King *James* is of a Religion, that has, infamous Council, decreed, *That no Faith is to be kept with Hereticks*, much less with Subjects, that he looks upon us as so many Rebels;

and will not miſs to treat them as ſuch, when-ever they give him the Opportunity of doing it. For his greateſt Admirers do not run to the height of Idolatry, to imagine him ſo much *Angel*, as not to take all Methods to revenge ſuch an Affront, and ſecure himſelf at our Coſt, from ſuch Treatment for the future. The Apprehenſions of which Reſentment, would ſtrike ſuch a Terror in Mens Mind, that nothing would be capable to divert them offering up *All* for an Attonement; and *Popery* and *Slavery* will be thought a good Bargain, if they can but ſave their Lives. Then we might lament our Miſeries, when it would be out of our Power to help them; for a Prince of *Orange* is not always ready to reſcue us, with ſo vaſt Expence, and hazard of his Perſon. And I muſt ſay, if ever our Madneſs ſhould hurry us thus far, we ſhould become rather the Objects of Laughter, than of Pity: In ſhort, if there be any of the Proſtant Perſwaſion, ſo ſtrangely infatuated, as but to wiſh his Return, I ſhall entertain them with no other Anſwer, but the recommending to them the Ninth of *Ezra*, *v.* 13, 14. *And after all that is come upon us for our evil Deeds, and for our great Treſpaſs, ſeeing that thou our God haſt puniſhed us leſs than our Iniquities deſerve, and haſt given us ſuch a Deliverance as this: Should we again break thy Commandments, and join in affinity with the People of theſe Abominations; wouldſt not thou be angry with us, till thou hadſt conſumed us, ſo that there ſhould be no Remnant, nor eſcaping.*

FINIS.